DC
BYRNE WOLFMAN ORDWAY LEVITZ
SUPERMAN
THE MAN OF STEEL

SUPERMAN AND SUPERBOY?

SUPERMAN

THE MAN OF STEEL

Superman has his hands full as he encounters Rampage for the first time and has a rematch with Mammoth, accompanied by the rest of his Fearsome Five. But everything else pales compared to the teenager wearing his uniform and possessing his powers and abilities. Who is this Superboy? Where did he come from? The answer is found across time, in the 30th century, as Superman is drawn into a deadly game directed by the powerful Time Trapper. Even the Legion of Super-Heroes, champions from the future, may not be enough to save the Man of Steel!

Famed for his run on Marvel Comics' *The Uncanny X-Men* and *The Fantastic Four*, writer/artist John Byrne reimagined Superman for a new age before going on to chronicle the exploits of Wonder Woman, The Sub-Mariner, and most recently the Doom Patrol and the Demon. Joining Byrne on the Man of Steel's update are writer Marv Wolfman (THE NEW TEEN TITANS, CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS) and artist Jerry Ordway (WONDER WOMAN, PLANETARY/JLA). This volume also features the popular LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES team of writer Paul Levitz and artist Greg LaRocque.

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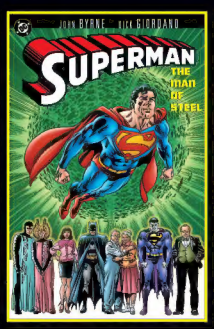
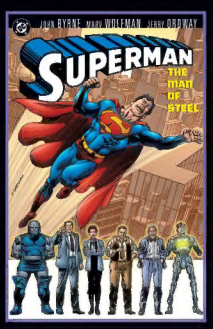
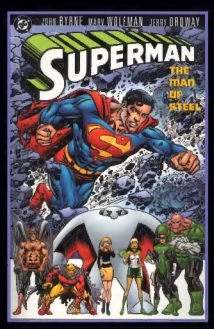
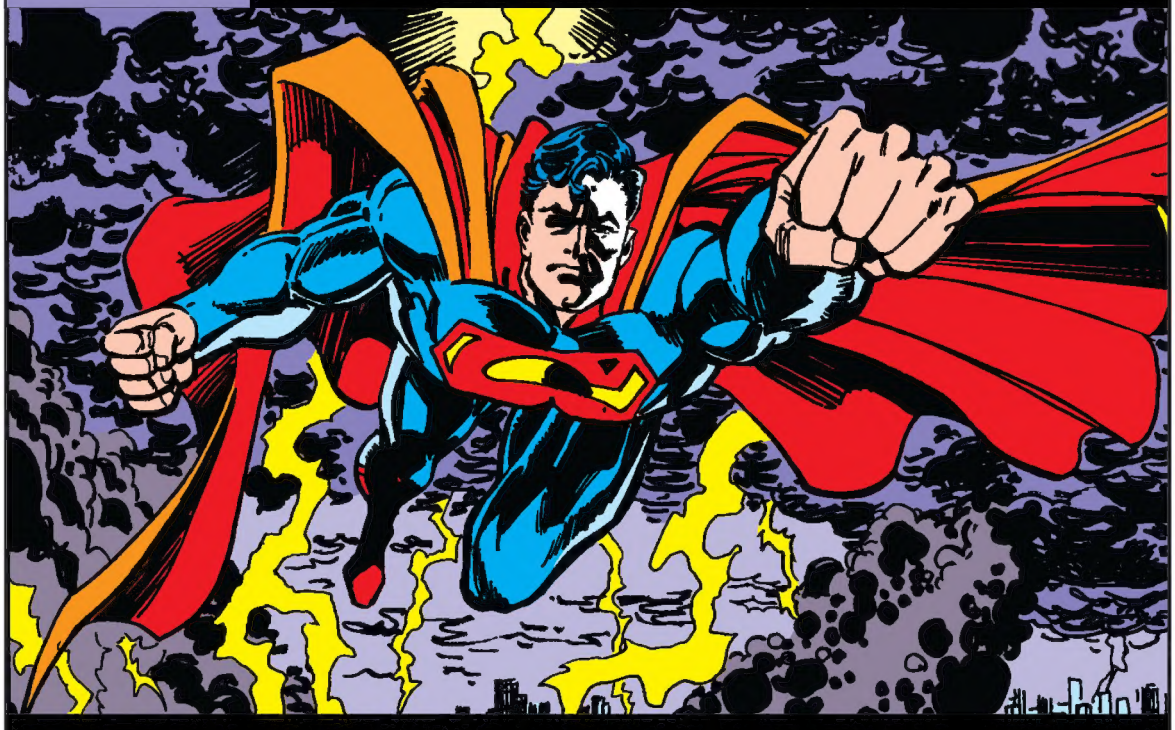






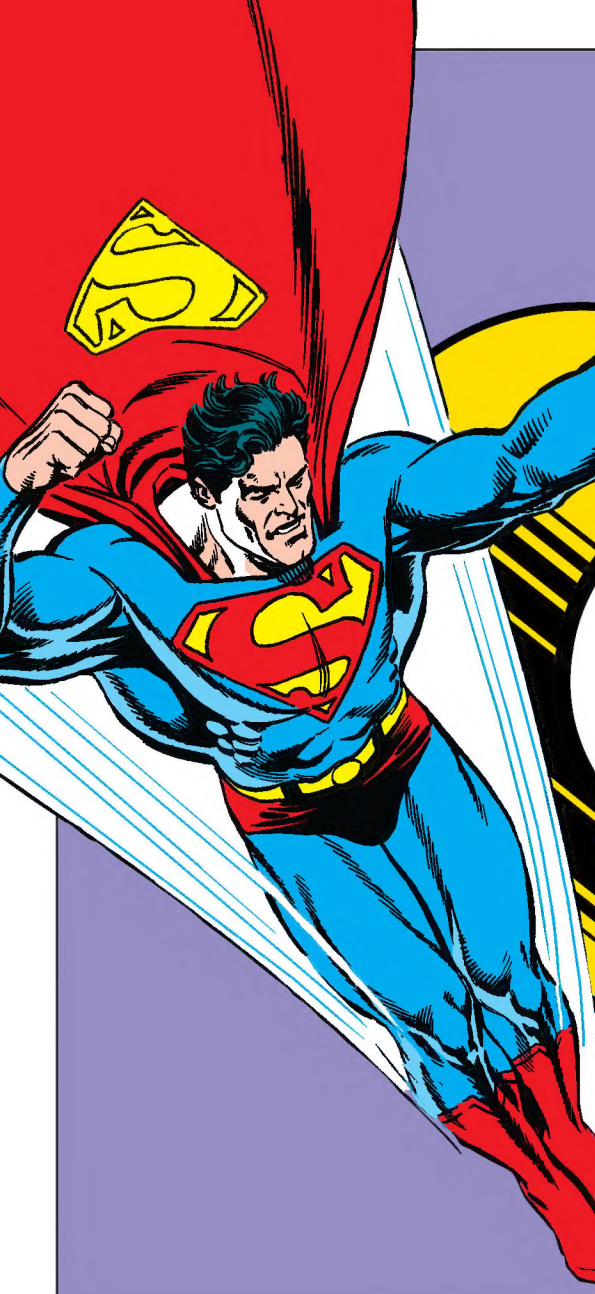
AND DON'T MISS THE STORIES THAT STARTED IT ALL!

SUPERMAN



THE MAN OF STEEL

VOLUME FOUR



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THE MAN OF STEEL

VOLUME FOUR

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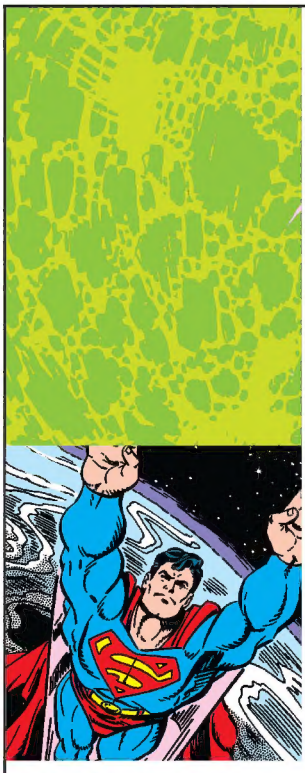


Introduction

SUPERMAN OR SUPERBOY?

In 1985, DC Comics chose to commemorate their 50th anniversary by destroying the universe.

Given the growing number of parallel universes and doppelgangers of characters, the editors felt that the intertwined continuity had grown so cumbersome, it was confusing not only to new readers but to the writers and editors, too. Their solution: a cosmic calamity resulting in one universe and one set of characters.

The growth of the Superman Family under editor Mort Weisinger in the 1950s and 1960s made for plenty of entertaining reading but it made Superman less remarkable. No longer the last son of Krypton, he had a cousin, an entire city, recurring villains and a veritable menagerie with powers and abilities like his own.

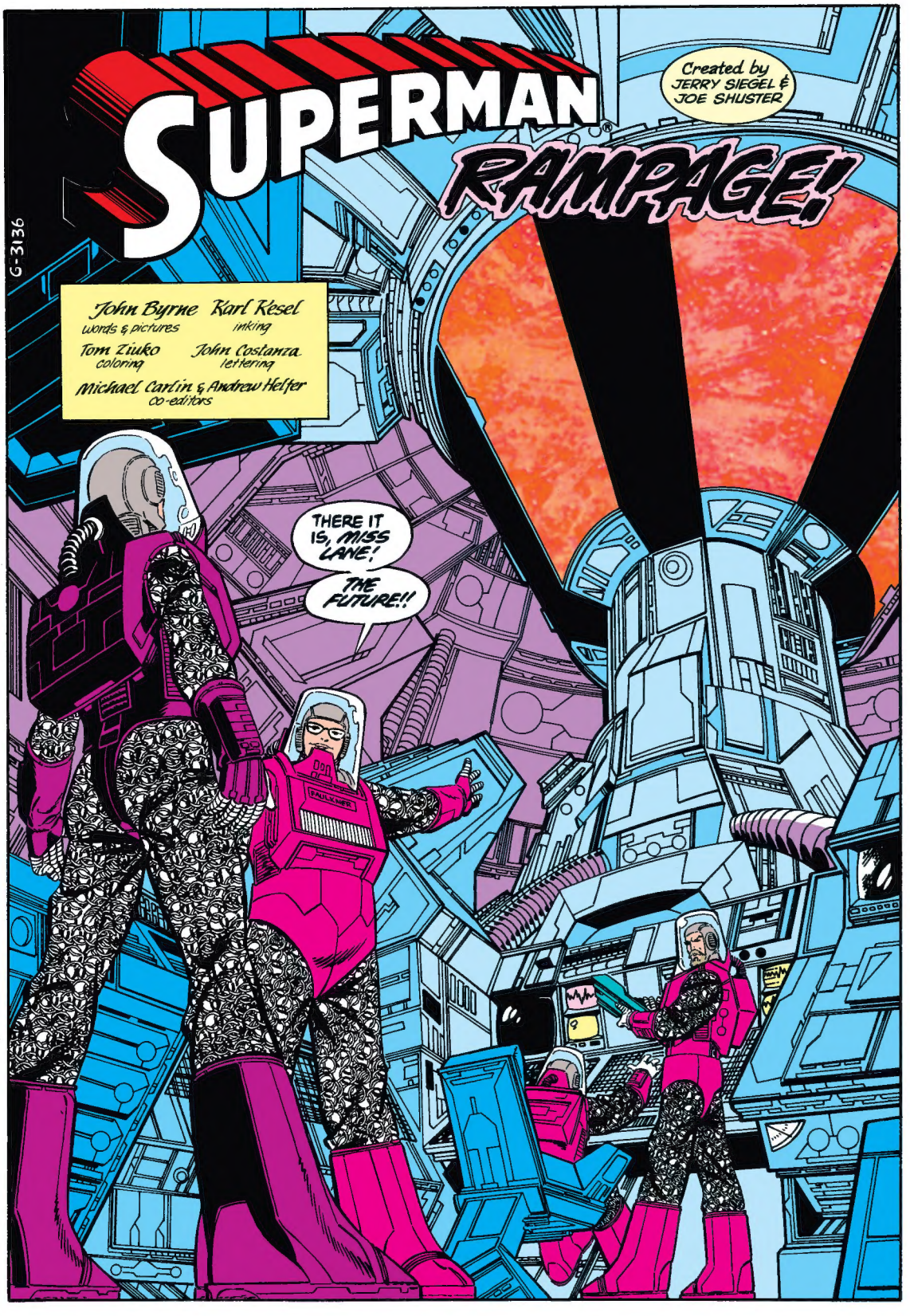
CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS was designed to change all that and restore the uniqueness to Superman's character and place in the super-hero pantheon. As the multiple earths were meshed into one, history was rewritten, providing editors and writers the opportunity to cherry-pick what they wanted to retain – all, that is, save Superman.

As the maxiseries was ending, DC had struck a deal with John Byrne to come over from Marvel Comics and re-invigorate the entire Superman mythos for new readers. The first three volumes show the steady growth with a mix of old and new.

But, one question would not go away: What about Superboy?

The Teen of Steel was still appearing in LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES, which made no sense since THE MAN OF STEEL made it clear that Clark Kent did not don the cape and tights until he was an adult.

Several meetings were held both at DC Comics and off-premises as newly anointed Superman editor Mike Carlin, John Byrne and LEGION scribe Paul Levitz tried to figure out a solution and then how to present it. This led to a four-part event that added a wrinkle to the newly minted continuity, one that would remain in place for years to come. This volume continues the stories from SUPERMAN, ACTION COMICS and ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN, but also key excerpts from the critical issues of LEGION. Enjoy.


SUPERMAN®
RAMPAGE!
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
G-3136
John Byrne
words & pictures
Karl Kesel
inking
Tom Ziuko
coloring
John Costanza
lettering
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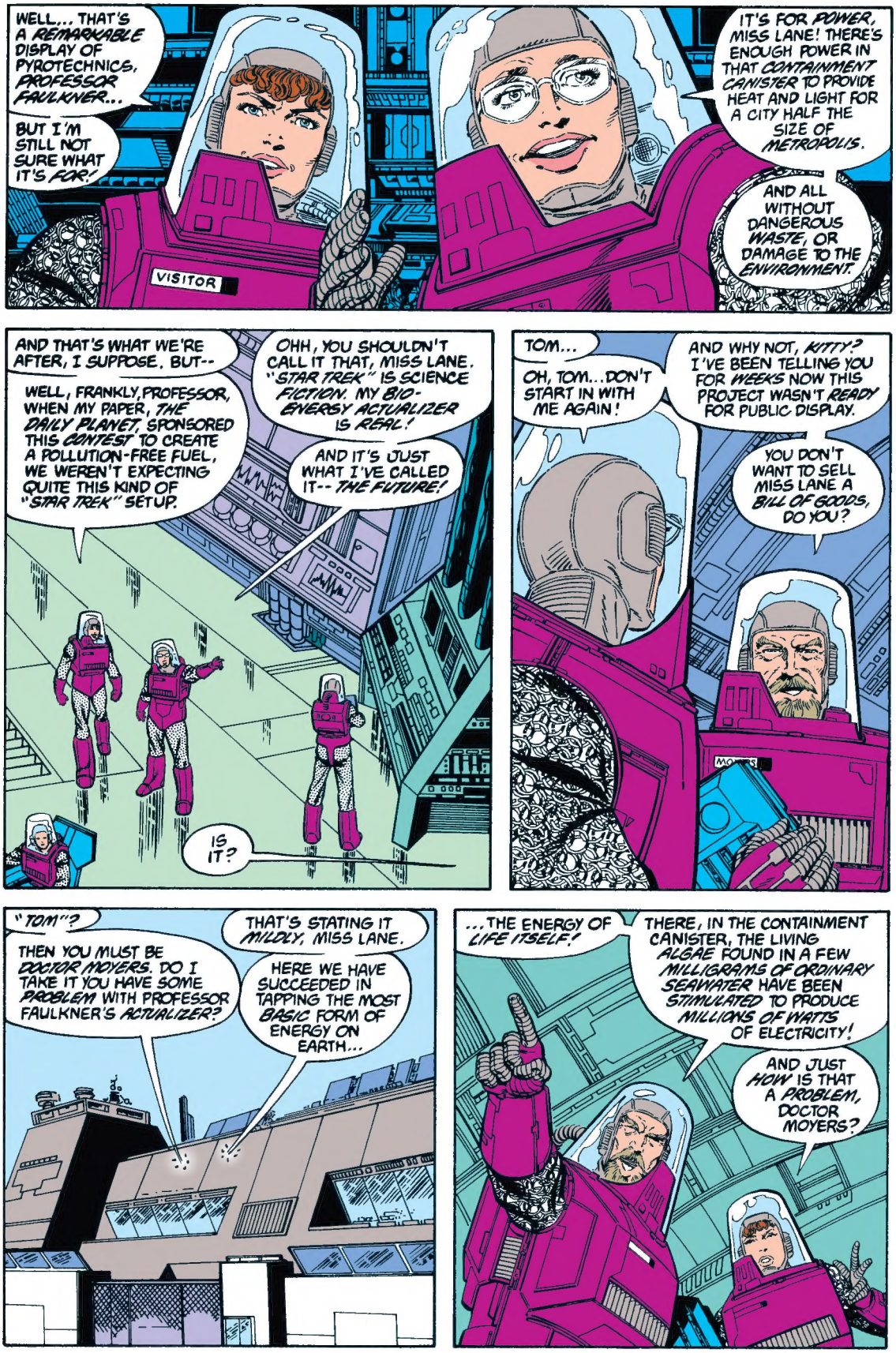
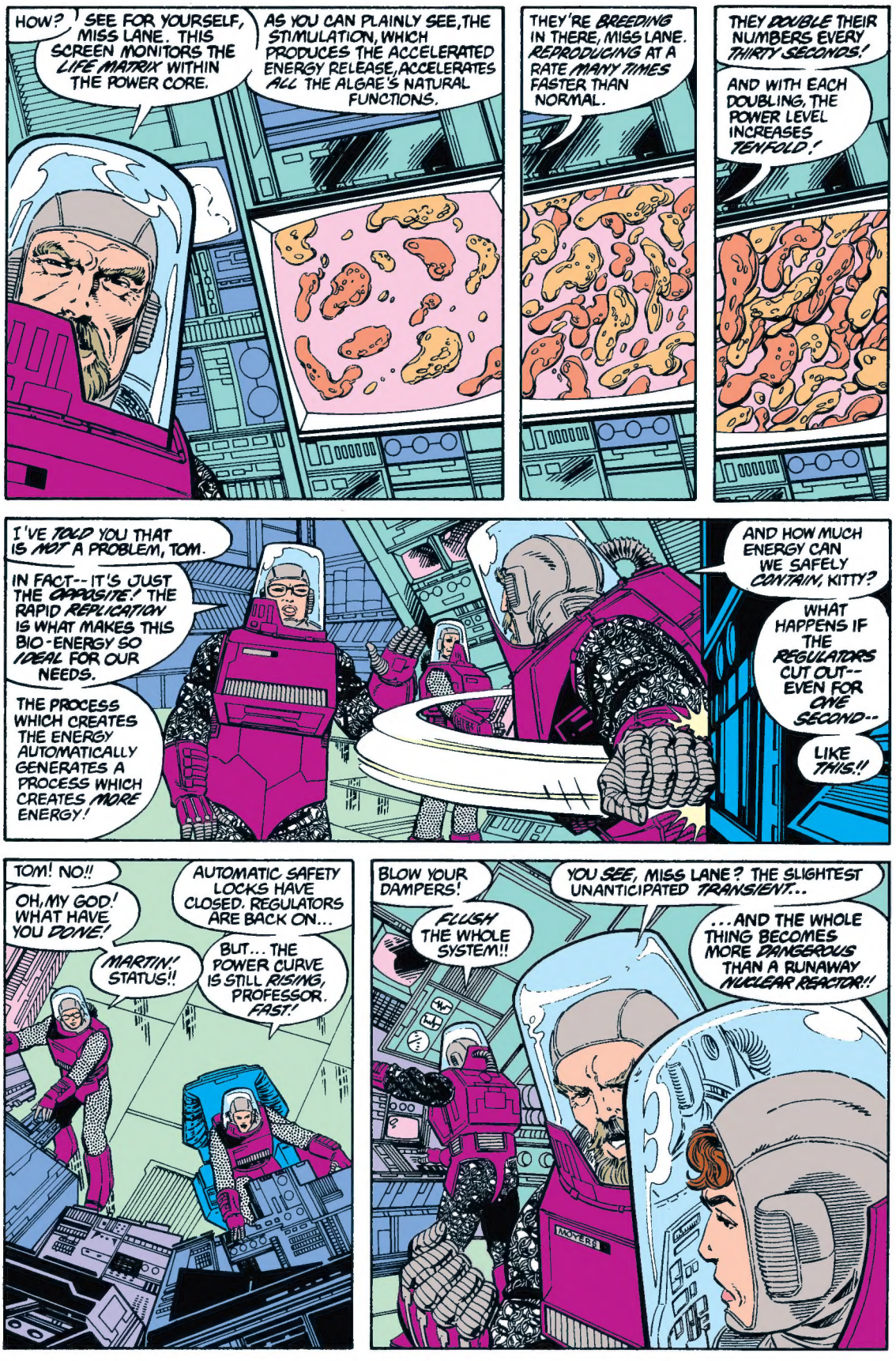
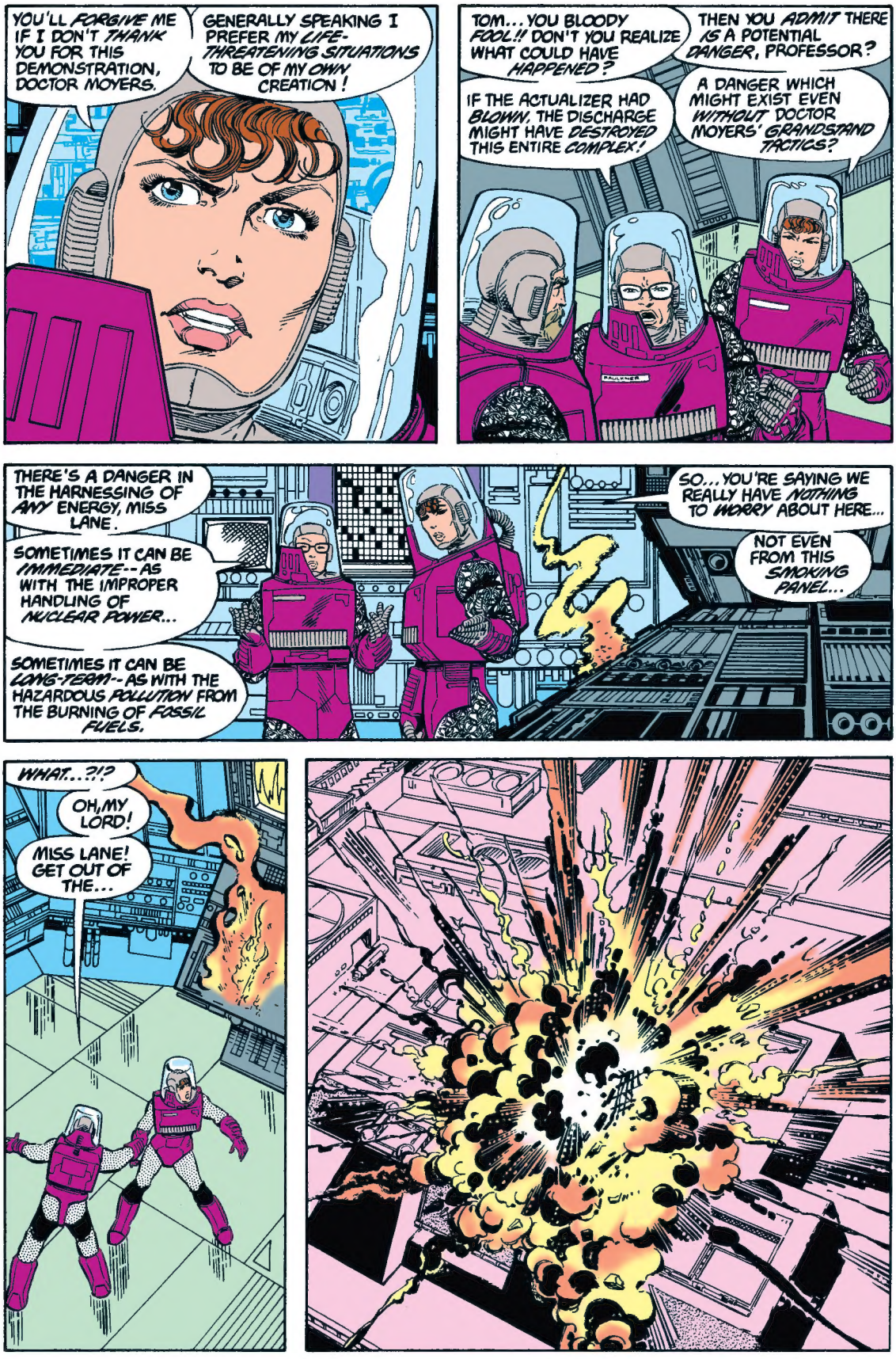
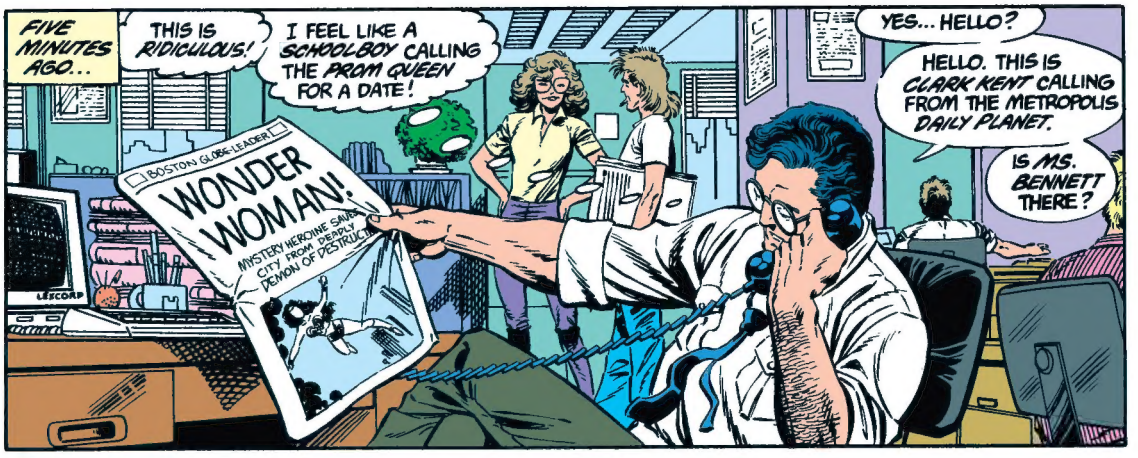
co-editors
THERE IT IS, MISS LANE!
THE FUTURE!!

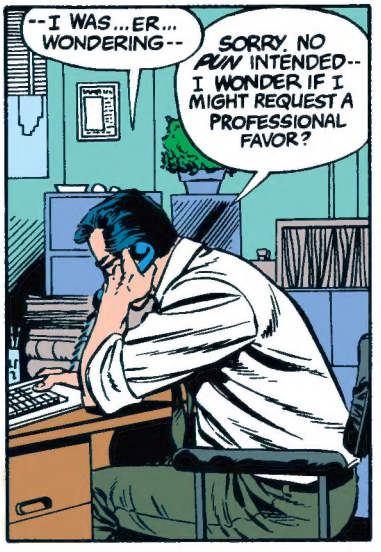

WELL... THAT'S A REMARKABLE DISPLAY OF PYROTECHNICS, PROFESSOR FAULKNER...
BUT I'M STILL NOT SURE WHAT IT'S FOR!
IT'S FOR POWER, MISS LANE! THERE'S ENOUGH POWER IN THAT CONTAINMENT CANISTER TO PROVIDE HEAT AND LIGHT FOR A CITY HALF THE SIZE OF METROPOLIS.
AND ALL WITHOUT DANGEROUS WASTE, OR DAMAGE TO THE ENVIRONMENT.
VISITOR
AND THAT'S WHAT WE'RE AFTER, I SUPPOSE. BUT--
WELL, FRANKLY, PROFESSOR, WHEN MY PAPER, THE DAILY PLANET, SPONSORED THIS CONTEST TO CREATE A POLLUTION-FREE FUEL, WE WEREN'T EXPECTING QUITE THIS KIND OF "STAR TREK" SETUP.
OHH, YOU SHOULDN'T CALL IT THAT, MISS LANE. "STAR TREK" IS SCIENCE FICTION. MY BIO-ENERGY ACTUALIZER IS REAL!
AND IT'S JUST WHAT I'VE CALLED IT-- THE FUTURE!
IS IT?
TOM...
OH, TOM... DON'T START IN WITH ME AGAIN!
AND WHY NOT, KITTY? I'VE BEEN TELLING YOU FOR WEEKS NOW THIS PROJECT WASN'T READY FOR PUBLIC DISPLAY.
YOU DON'T WANT TO SELL MISS LANE A BILL OF GOODS, DO YOU?
"TOM"?
THEN YOU MUST BE DOCTOR MOYERS. DO I TAKE IT YOU HAVE SOME PROBLEM WITH PROFESSOR FAULKNER'S ACTUALIZER?
THAT'S STATING IT MILDLY, MISS LANE.
HERE WE HAVE SUCCEEDED IN TAPPING THE MOST BASIC FORM OF ENERGY ON EARTH...
...THE ENERGY OF LIFE ITSELF!
THERE, IN THE CONTAINMENT CANISTER, THE LIVING ALGAE FOUND IN A FEW MILLIGRAMS OF ORDINARY SEAWATER HAVE BEEN STIMULATED TO PRODUCE MILLIONS OF WATTS OF ELECTRICITY!
AND JUST HOW IS THAT A PROBLEM, DOCTOR MOYERS?

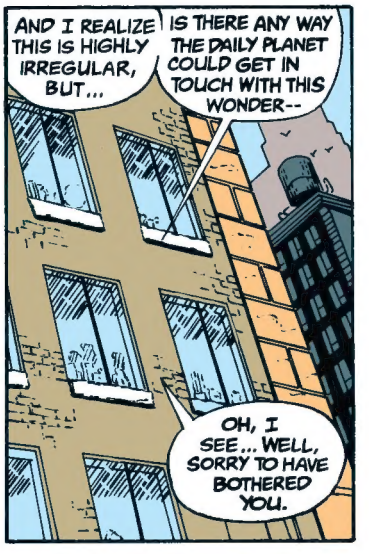

HOW?
SEE FOR YOURSELF, MISS LANE. THIS SCREEN MONITORS THE LIFE MATRIX WITHIN THE POWER CORE.
AS YOU CAN PLAINLY SEE, THE STIMULATION, WHICH PRODUCES THE ACCELERATED ENERGY RELEASE, ACCELERATES ALL THE ALGAE'S NATURAL FUNCTIONS.
THEY'RE BREEDING IN THERE, MISS LANE. REPRODUCING AT A RATE MANY TIMES FASTER THAN NORMAL.
THEY DOUBLE THEIR NUMBERS EVERY THIRTY SECONDS!
AND WITH EACH DOUBLING, THE POWER LEVEL INCREASES TENFOLD!
I'VE TOLD YOU THAT IS NOT A PROBLEM, TOM.
IN FACT-- IT'S JUST THE OPPOSITE! THE RAPID REPLICATION IS WHAT MAKES THIS BIO-ENERGY SO IDEAL FOR OUR NEEDS.
THE PROCESS WHICH CREATES THE ENERGY AUTOMATICALLY GENERATES A PROCESS WHICH CREATES MORE ENERGY!
AND HOW MUCH ENERGY CAN WE SAFELY CONTAIN, KITTY?
WHAT HAPPENS IF THE REGULATORS CUT OUT-- EVEN FOR ONE SECOND--
LIKE THIS!!
TOM! NO!!
OH, MY GOD! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE!
MARTIN! STATUS!!
AUTOMATIC SAFETY LOCKS HAVE CLOSED. REGULATORS ARE BACK ON...
BUT... THE POWER CURVE IS STILL RISING, PROFESSOR. FAST!
BLOW YOUR DAMPERS!
FLUSH THE WHOLE SYSTEM!!
YOU SEE, MISS LANE? THE SLIGHTEST UNANTICIPATED TRANSIENT...
...AND THE WHOLE THING BECOMES MORE DANGEROUS THAN A RUNAWAY NUCLEAR REACTOR!!
MOVERS

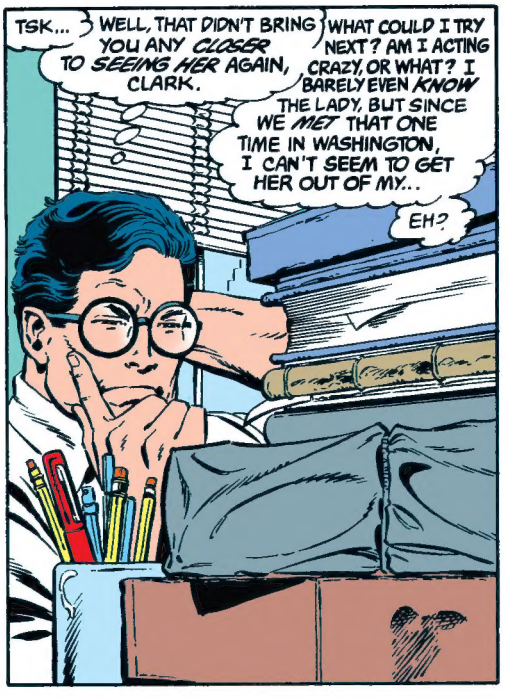

YOU'LL FORGIVE ME IF I DON'T THANK YOU FOR THIS DEMONSTRATION, DOCTOR MOYERS.
GENERALLY SPEAKING I PREFER MY LIFE-THREATENING SITUATIONS TO BE OF MY OWN CREATION!
TOM... YOU BLOODY FOOL!! DON'T YOU REALIZE WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED?
IF THE ACTUALIZER HAD BLOWN, THE DISCHARGE MIGHT HAVE DESTROYED THIS ENTIRE COMPLEX!
THEN YOU ADMIT THERE IS A POTENTIAL DANGER, PROFESSOR?
A DANGER WHICH MIGHT EXIST EVEN WITHOUT DOCTOR MOYERS' GRANDSTAND TACTICS?
THERE'S A DANGER IN THE HARNESSING OF ANY ENERGY, MISS LANE.
SOMETIMES IT CAN BE IMMEDIATE--AS WITH THE IMPROPER HANDLING OF NUCLEAR POWER...
SOMETIMES IT CAN BE LONG-TERM--AS WITH THE HAZARDOUS POLLUTION FROM THE BURNING OF FOSSIL FUELS.
SO... YOU'RE SAYING WE REALLY HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT HERE...
NOT EVEN FROM THIS SMOKING PANEL...
WHAT...?!?
OH, MY LORD!
MISS LANE! GET OUT OF THE...


FIVE MINUTES AGO...
THIS IS RIDICULOUS!
I FEEL LIKE A SCHOOLBOY CALLING THE PROM QUEEN FOR A DATE!
BOSTON GLOBE-LEADER
WONDER WOMAN!
MYSTERY HEROINE SAVES CITY FROM DEADLY DEMON OF DESTRUCTION
YES... HELLO?
HELLO. THIS IS CLARK KENT CALLING FROM THE METROPOLIS DAILY PLANET.
IS MS. BENNETT THERE?

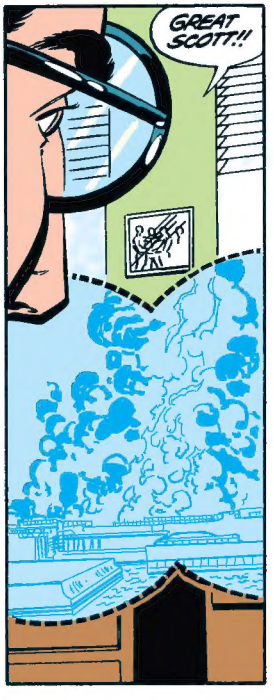
AH, GOOD MORNING, MS. BENNETT. OH--WHY, YES. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. MAY I CALL YOU CAROLE?
THANKS..
CAROLE, AS CITY EDITOR OF THE BOSTON GLOBE-LEADER--


--I WAS...ER... WONDERING--
SORRY, NO PUN INTENDED-- I WONDER IF I MIGHT REQUEST A PROFESSIONAL FAVOR?

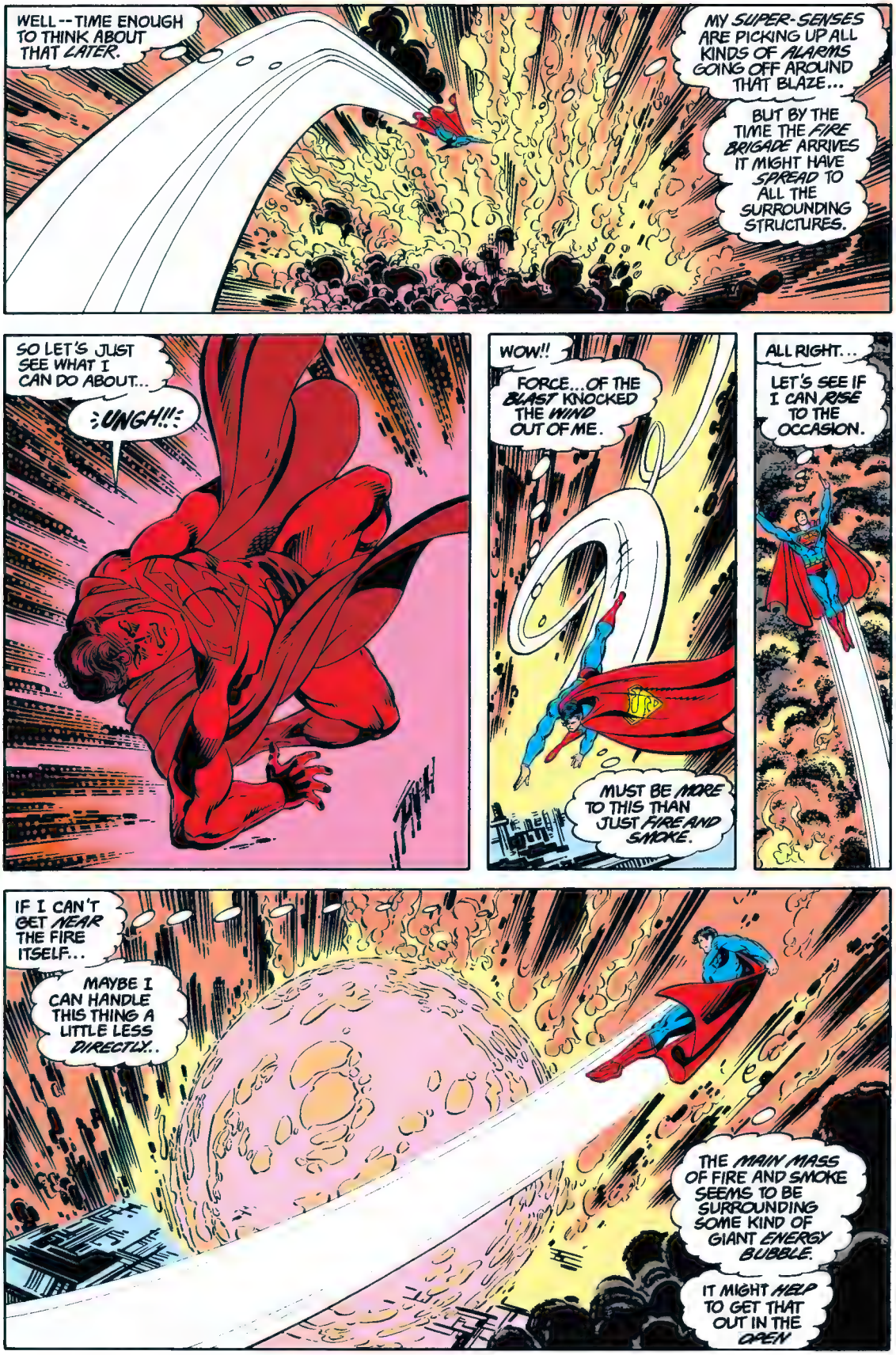

AND I REALIZE THIS IS HIGHLY IRREGULAR, BUT...
IS THERE ANY WAY THE DAILY PLANET COULD GET IN TOUCH WITH THIS WONDER--
OH, I SEE... WELL, SORRY TO HAVE BOTHERED YOU.


TSK... WELL, THAT DIDN'T BRING YOU ANY CLOSER TO SEEING HER AGAIN, CLARK.
WHAT COULD I TRY NEXT? AM I ACTING CRAZY, OR WHAT? I BARELY EVEN KNOW THE LADY, BUT SINCE WE MET THAT ONE TIME IN WASHINGTON, I CAN'T SEEM TO GET HER OUT OF MY...
EH?

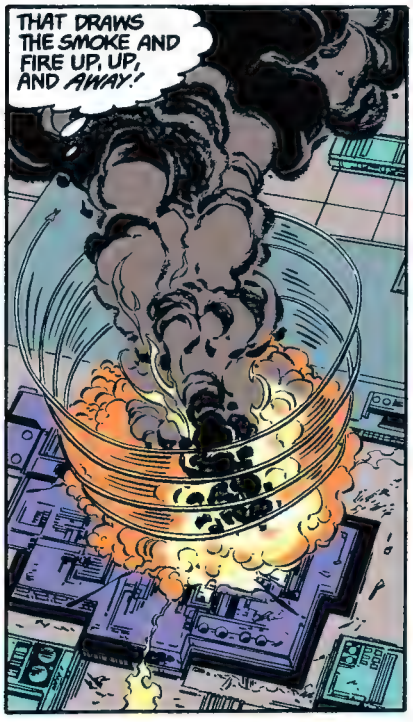
MY SUPER-HEARING JUST PICKED UP SOMETHING UNNERVING LIKE AN EXPLOSION ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN.
WHAT...

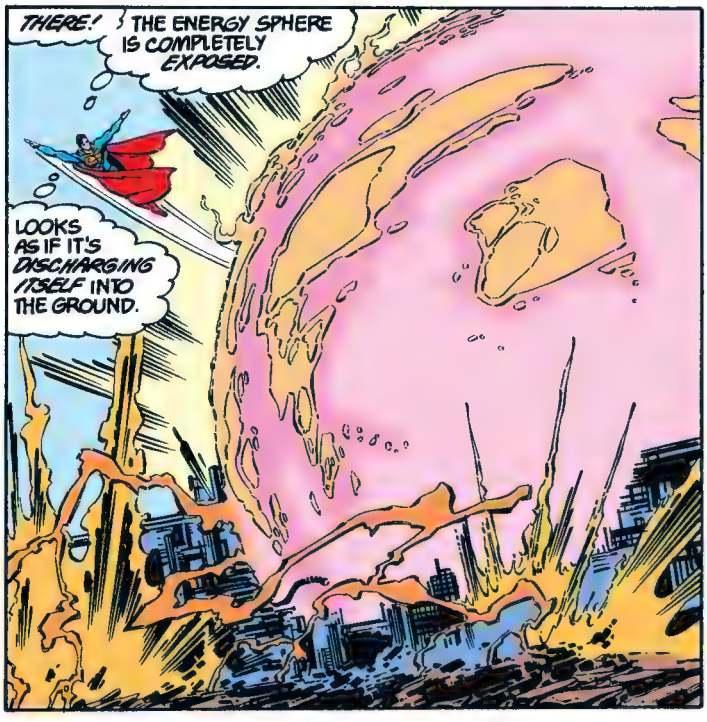

GREAT SCOTT!!

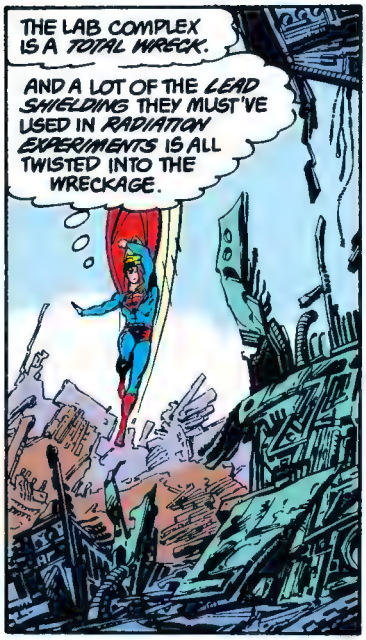
MORNIN', CLARK.
I'VE FOUND ALL THE STUFF ON CLETUS POWELL YOU WERE AFTER.
OH. THANKS, ALICE. JUST LEAVE IT ON MY DESK, WOULD YOU?
I'VE... AH... GOT TO FLY.
LEXCORP
SURE, CLARK.
AND OFF HE GOES AGAIN!
BOY! I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER KNOWN ANYONE WHO GETS THE URGE TO DASH OFF AS SUDDENLY OR AS OFTEN AS CLARK KENT!
STILL...
MAYBE THAT'S WHAT MAKES HIM THE BEST REPORTER ON THE PLANET.
DAILY PLANET
CLARK- DON'T FORGET TO PICK
SOMETIMES I WONDER IF MAINTAINING A SECRET IDENTITY IS SUCH A GOOD IDEA AFTER ALL.
I REALLY DON'T LIKE HAVING TO BE BRUSK WITH PEOPLE, THE WAY I JUST WAS WITH ALICE.
BUT THERE'S NOT MUCH ELSE I CAN DO SO LONG AS I HAVE TWO LIVES...
FIRE
STOCK ROOM
...AND ONE OF THEM IS...
SUPERMAN'S!!


WELL--TIME ENOUGH TO THINK ABOUT THAT LATER.
MY SUPER-SENSES ARE PICKING UP ALL KINDS OF ALARMS GOING OFF AROUND THAT BLAZE...
BUT BY THE TIME THE FIRE BRIGADE ARRIVES IT MIGHT HAVE SPREAD TO ALL THE SURROUNDING STRUCTURES.
SO LET'S JUST SEE WHAT I CAN DO ABOUT...
:UNGH!!:
WOW!!
FORCE...OF THE BLAST KNOCKED THE WIND OUT OF ME.
MUST BE MORE TO THIS THAN JUST FIRE AND SMOKE.
ALL RIGHT...
LET'S SEE IF I CAN RISE TO THE OCCASION.
IF I CAN'T GET NEAR THE FIRE ITSELF...
MAYBE I CAN HANDLE THIS THING A LITTLE LESS DIRECTLY..
THE MAIN MASS OF FIRE AND SMOKE SEEMS TO BE SURROUNDING SOME KIND OF GIANT ENERGY BUBBLE.
IT MIGHT HELP TO GET THAT OUT IN THE OPEN

AND THE BEST WAY I CAN THINK OF TO DO THAT...
...IS TO CIRCLE THE CONFLAGRATION AT SUPER-SPEED...
...SO THAT MY SLIP-STREAM CREATES A PARTIAL VACUUM...

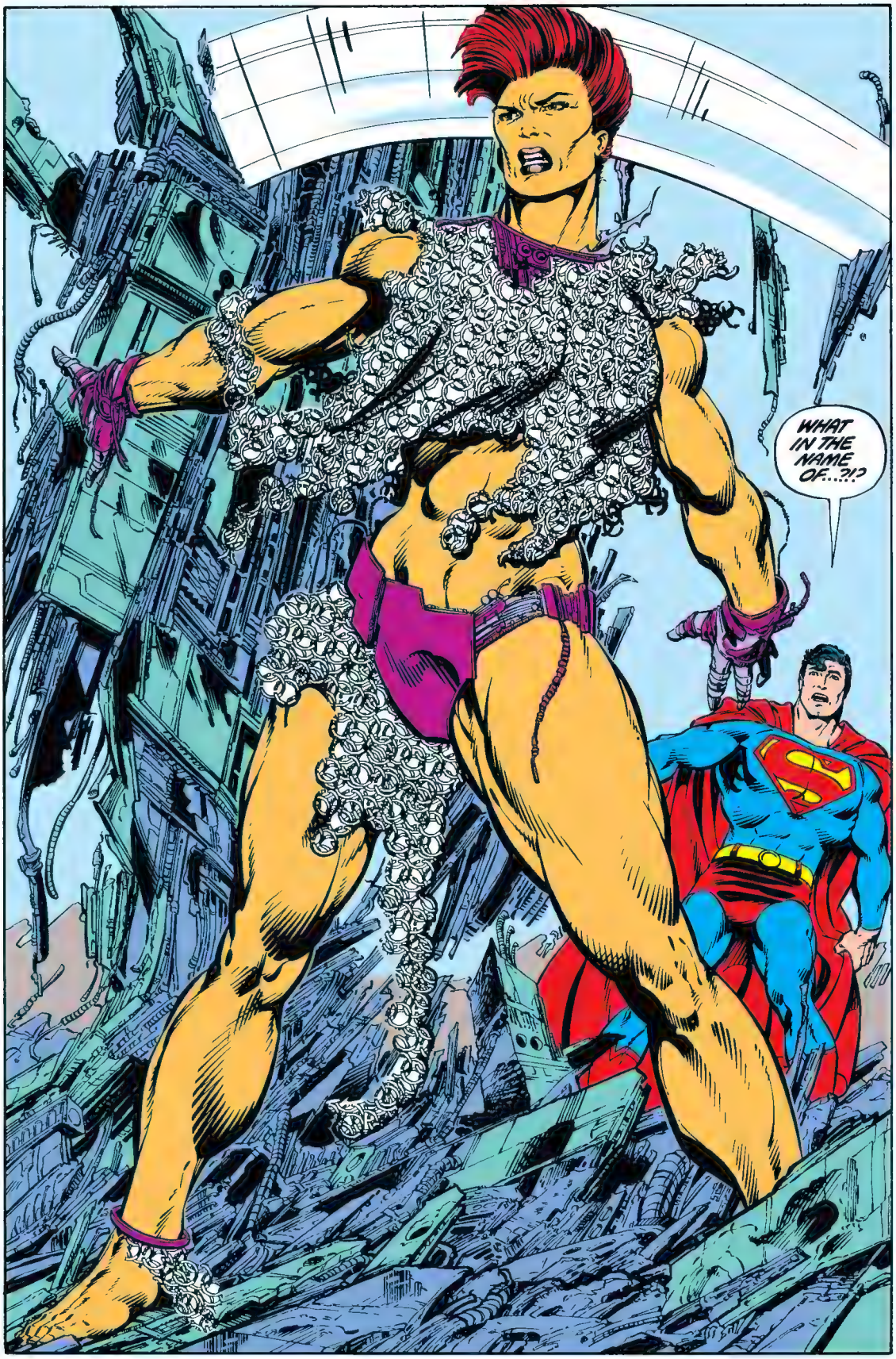

THAT DRAWS THE SMOKE AND FIRE UP, UP, AND AWAY!


THERE! THE ENERGY SPHERE IS COMPLETELY EXPOSED.
LOOKS AS IF IT'S DISCHARGING ITSELF INTO THE GROUND.


THE LAB COMPLEX IS A TOTAL WRECK.
AND A LOT OF THE LEAD SHIELDING THEY MUST'VE USED IN RADIATION EXPERIMENTS IS ALL TWISTED INTO THE WRECKAGE.

IT'S SCREWING UP MY X-RAY VISION OVER LARGE AREAS.
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO SEARCH FOR SURVIVORS THE HARD WAY.

WAIT... SOME KIND OF MOVEMENT UNDER THE RUBBLE WHAT...
WHOA!!


WHAT IN THE NAME OF...?!?

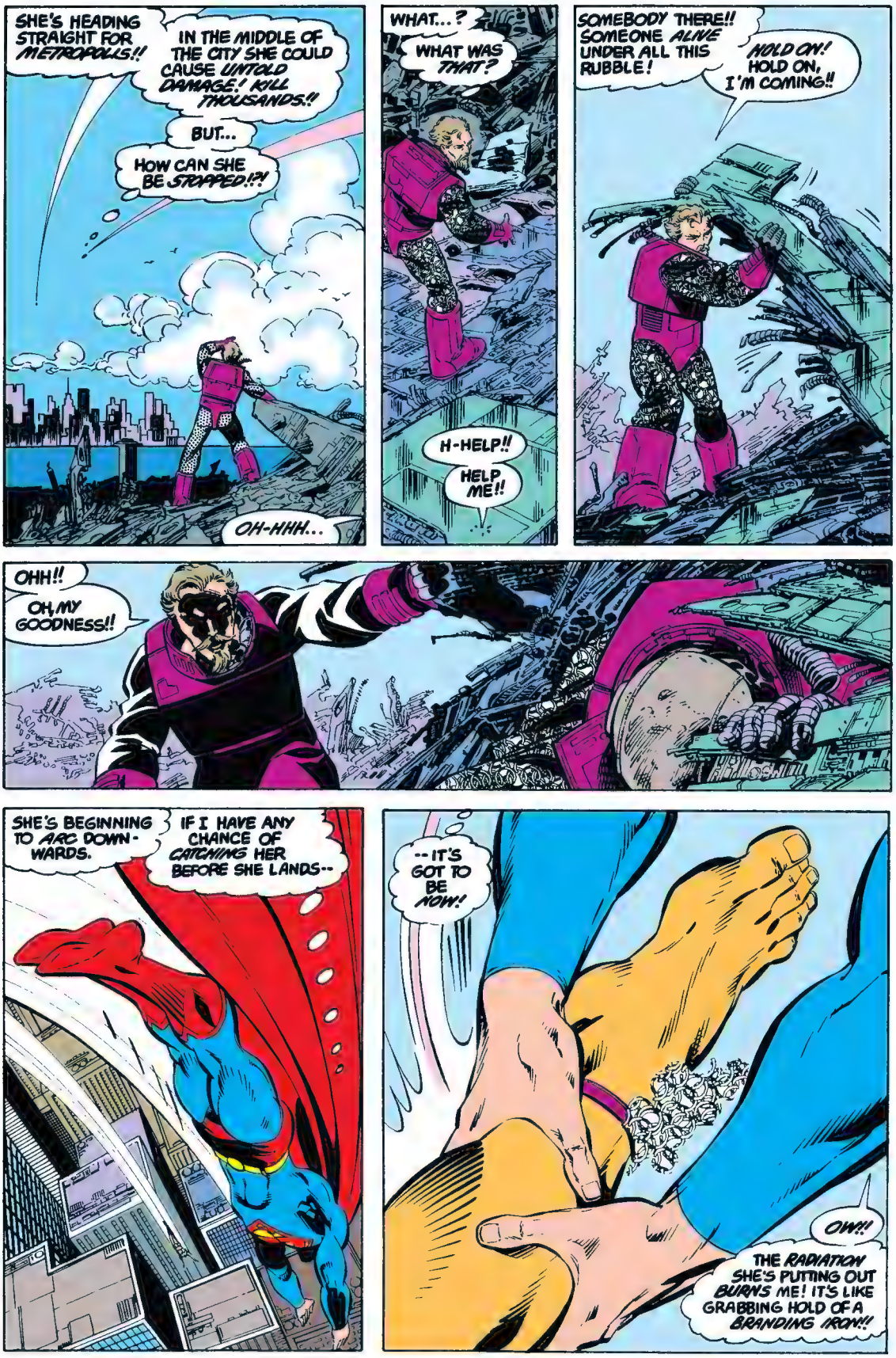
IS THAT... A WOMAN??
SHE MUST BE EIGHT FEET TALL!! AND I CAN FEEL THE ENERGY SHE'S RADIATING EVEN FROM OVER HERE!!
SHE SEEMS CONFUSED...
DISTURBED...
I'D BETTER TRY TO COMMUNICATE WITH HER.
ER... HELLO.
I'M...
HHURRHH!!
UNGH!
GREAT SCOTT!!
I HAVEN'T BEEN HIT THAT HARD SINCE I WENT UP AGAINST THAT IMPERFECT DUPLICATE OF MYSELF, YEARS AGO!
WHERE ON EARTH DID THIS WOMAN FIND THAT KIND OF POWER??
"ON EARTH," THAT MAY BE THE KEY. SHE LOOKS SUPERFICIALLY HUMAN...
BUT HER SIZE AND SKIN COLOR ARE SO UNLIKE ANY HUMAN RACE'S.
COULD SHE BE AN EXTRATERRESTRIAL, LIKE ME?

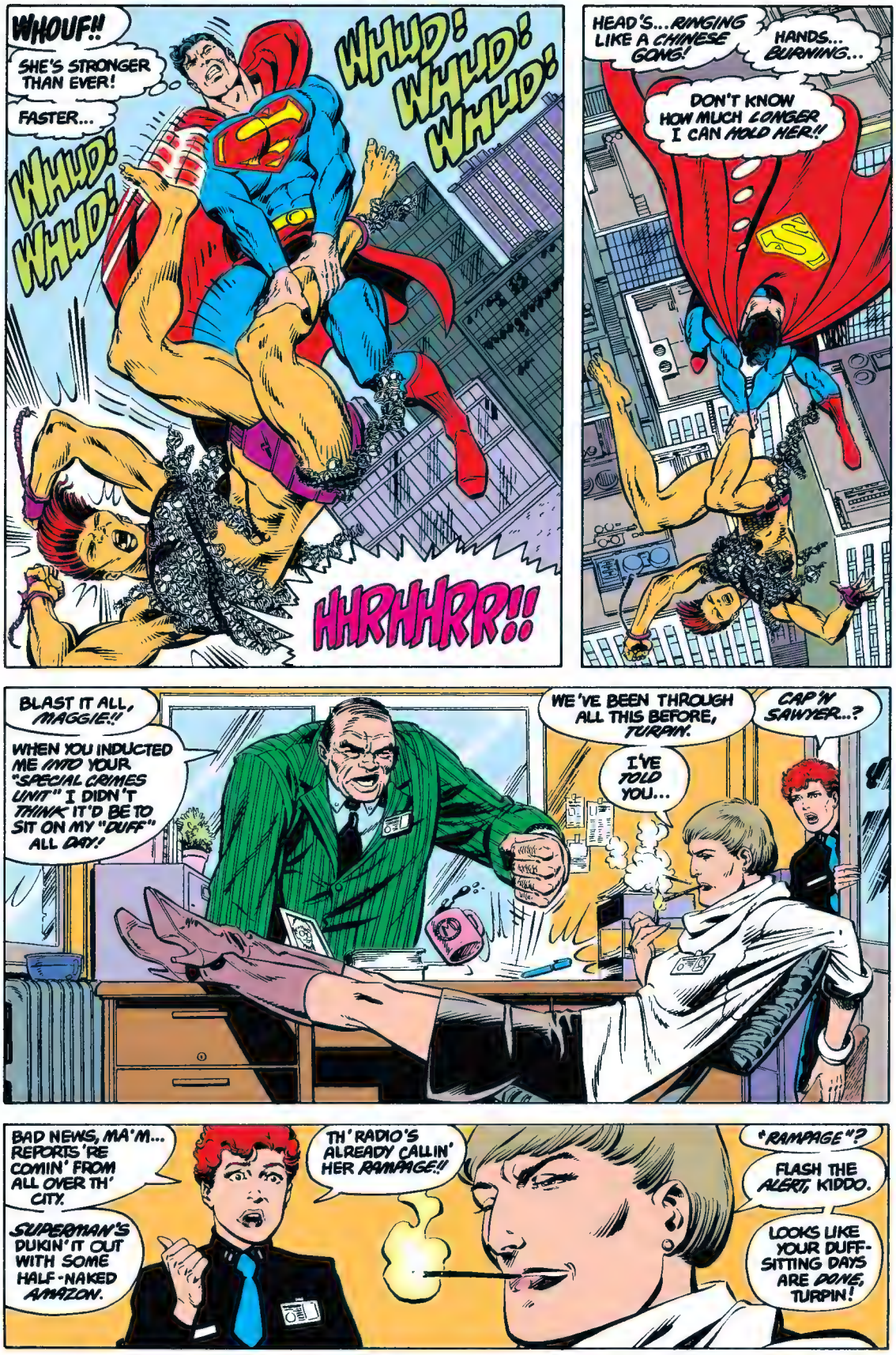
NO TIME TO WONDER ABOUT THAT NOW!
HER CONFUSION IS TURNING INTO RAGE!
AHRRH!!
I'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY TO SUBDUE HER, BEFORE HER GIGANTIC STRENGTH DOES SOME REAL DAMAGE.
UHR...??
NOW, HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, LADY.
LET'S JUST CALM DOWN A BIT, OKAY?
HAHRRHH!!
SO MUCH FOR THAT PLAN!!

LET'S TRY A DIFFERENT PLOY.
IF TALKING TO HER WON'T WORK...
HUHHRH??
RUNK!!
LET'S SEE IF I CAN--AH-- WRAP THIS UP...
AND BUY MYSELF THE TIME TO FIND OUT WHO SHE IS AND WHERE SHE CAME FROM.
AAARHHH!
GOOD...
THE REINFORCED ALLOYS OF THAT STRUCTURAL FRAMEWORK SEEM TO BE HOLDING HER.
NOW, IF ONLY I CAN...
S-SUPERMAN!!
WHO...?
MOYERS...
THOMAS MOYERS. I'M DEPUTY HEAD OF THIS PROJECT.
SUPERMAN...
THAT WOMAN...
THE MONSTER...
IT'S... SHE'S...
LOIS LANE!!

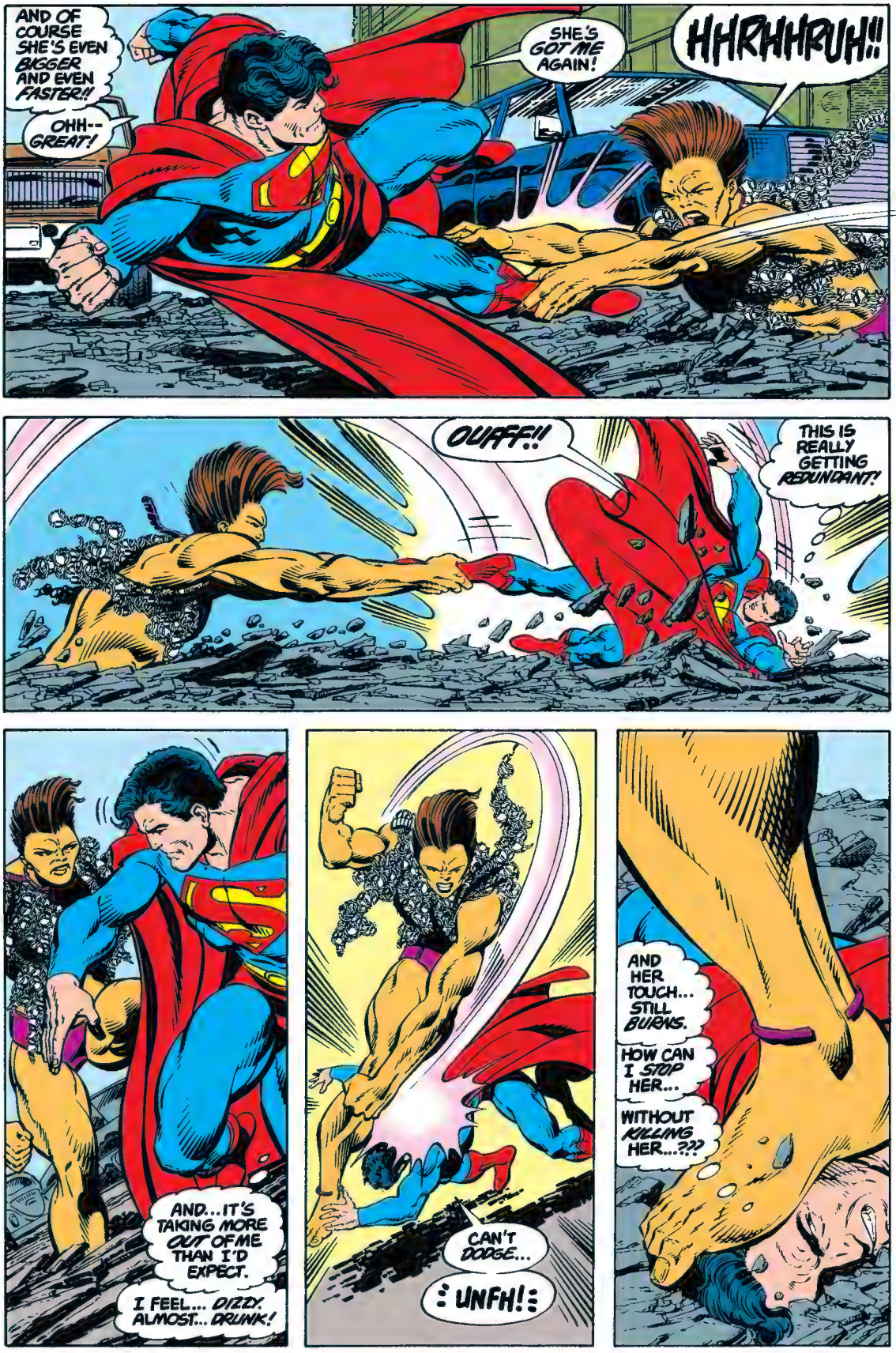
LOIS!?!
I DIDN'T KNOW SHE WAS OUT HERE!
HOW...???
SHE WAS NEAR THE BIO-ENERGY ACTUALIZER.
RIGHT IN THE PATH OF THE BLAST WHEN IT DISCHARGED!
HER CELLS MUST'VE ABSORBED THE ENERGY THE SAME WAY YOUR CELLS DRAW IN SOLAR POWER!
BUT...
BUT WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING! WE'VE GOT TO HELP HER!
WHAT CAN WE DO!?!?
NOTHING, SUPERMAN!
THE WHOLE PROCESS OF BIO-ENERGY STIMULATION IS NOW ACTING IN HER BODY.
HER CELLS WILL KEEP STORING SOLAR RADIATION, JUST LIKE YOU...
...BUILDING AND BUILDING...
UNTIL SHE EXPLODES!!!
EX--PLODES?!?
NO!
NOT LOIS!! IT CAN'T...
I WON'T...
...EH?
KKRREEEEEK
HRHRRRRH!!

GOOD LORD!
SHE'S GROWN...
SHE'S EVEN BIGGER THAN BEFORE!!
LOIS...
LOIS, CAN YOU HEAR ME? CAN YOU UNDERSTAND ME?
I WANT TO HELP YOU, LOIS... PLEASE...
HRHHRH!!
UNGH!
IT'S NO GOOD. THE ENERGY RUNNING RAMPANT IN HER BODY IS ACTING LIKE SOME KIND OF DRUG!
SHE HAS NO SENSE OF WHO OR WHERE SHE IS!
WAIT...
WHAT'S SHE DOING NOW...??
GREAT SCOTT!!
SHE CAN FLY!!!


SHE'S HEADING STRAIGHT FOR METROPOLIS!!
IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CITY SHE COULD CAUSE UNTOLD DAMAGE! KILL THOUSANDS!!
BUT...
HOW CAN SHE BE STOPPED!?!
OH-HHH...
WHAT...?
WHAT WAS THAT?
H-HELP!!
HELP ME!!
SOMEBODY THERE!! SOMEONE ALIVE UNDER ALL THIS RUBBLE!
HOLD ON! HOLD ON, I'M COMING!!
OHH!!
OH, MY GOODNESS!!
SHE'S BEGINNING TO ARC DOWN-WARDS.
IF I HAVE ANY CHANCE OF CATCHING HER BEFORE SHE LANDS--
--IT'S GOT TO BE NOW!
OW!!
THE RADIATION SHE'S PUTTING OUT BURNS ME! IT'S LIKE GRABBING HOLD OF A BRANDING IRON!!

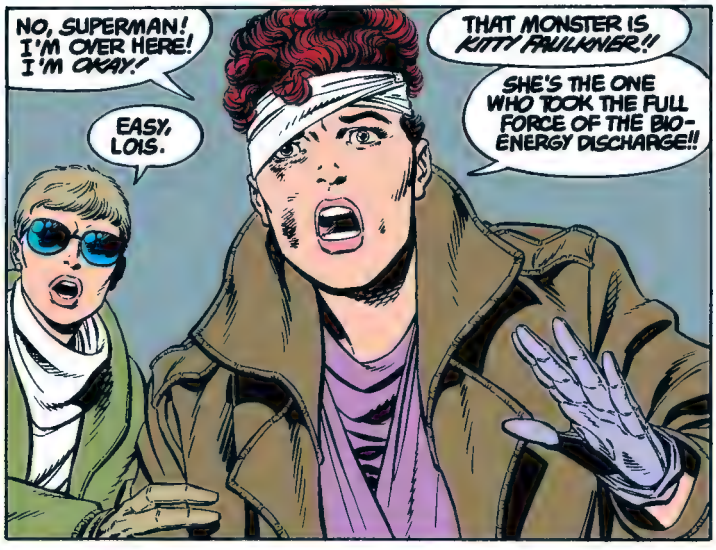

WHOUF!!
SHE'S STRONGER THAN EVER!
FASTER...
WHUD! WHUD!
WHUD! WHUD! WHUD!
HHRHHRR!!
HEAD'S...RINGING LIKE A CHINESE GONG!
HANDS... BURNING...
DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER I CAN HOLD HER!!
BLAST IT ALL, MAGGIE!!
WHEN YOU INDUCTED ME INTO YOUR "SPECIAL CRIMES UNIT" I DIDN'T THINK IT'D BE TO SIT ON MY "DUFF" ALL DAY!
WE'VE BEEN THROUGH ALL THIS BEFORE, TURPIN.
I'VE TOLD YOU...
CAP'N SAWYER...?
BAD NEWS, MA'M... REPORTS 'RE COMIN' FROM ALL OVER TH' CITY.
SUPERMAN'S DUKIN' IT OUT WITH SOME HALF-NAKED AMAZON.
TH' RADIO'S ALREADY CALLIN' HER RAMPAGE!!
"RAMPAGE"?
FLASH THE ALERT, KIDDO.
LOOKS LIKE YOUR DUFF-SITTING DAYS ARE DONE, TURPIN!

AHHGH!!
COULDN'T... HOLD HER ANY LONGER.
FELT LIKE MY PALMS WERE ON FIRE!!
NOW SHE'S FLYING AWAY AGAIN...
OR...
NO!
NOT FLYING...
FALLING!!
OF COURSE!
SHE WASN'T FLYING BEFORE! SHE WAS LEAPING, LIKE SOME GIGANTIC GRASS-HOPPER!
LIKE I USED TO DO, BACK IN SMALLVILLE, BEFORE MY POWERS FULLY DEVELOPED!
BUT...
DEAR LORD, DID SHE SURVIVE THE FALL??
UHH...
YEP!

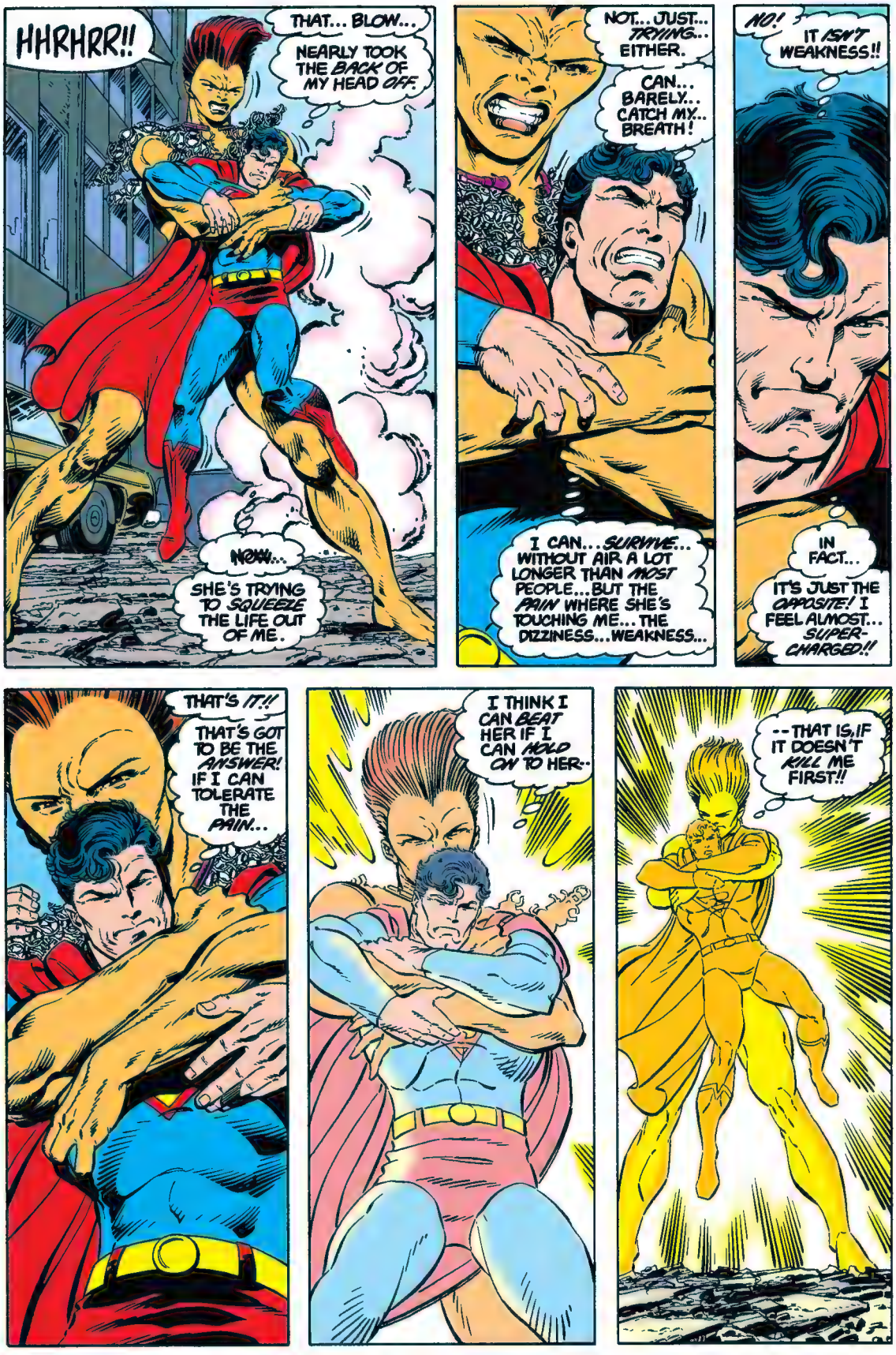

AND OF COURSE SHE'S EVEN BIGGER AND EVEN FASTER!!
OHH-- GREAT!
SHE'S GOT ME AGAIN!
HHRHHRUH!!
OUFF!!
THIS IS REALLY GETTING REDUNDANT!
AND...IT'S TAKING MORE OUT OF ME THAN I'D EXPECT.
I FEEL.... DIZZY. ALMOST... DRUNK!
CAN'T DODGE...
UNFH!
AND HER TOUCH... STILL BURNS.
HOW CAN I STOP HER...
WITHOUT KILLING HER...???

SHE'S STAGGERED!
ONLY 'CAUSE WE CAUGHT HER OFF-GUARD!
THAT'S ONE TOUGH MAMA!!
THEN RELOAD!! FIRE AGAIN!
PRONTO!
M.P.D.
I'VE BEEN UP AGAINST THESE "WEIRDIES" BEFORE...
YOU HAVEN'T GOT A CHANCE UNLESS YOU SHOW 'EM WHO'S "BOSS."

MAGGIE! NO! DON'T!
THAT'S LOIS LANE!!

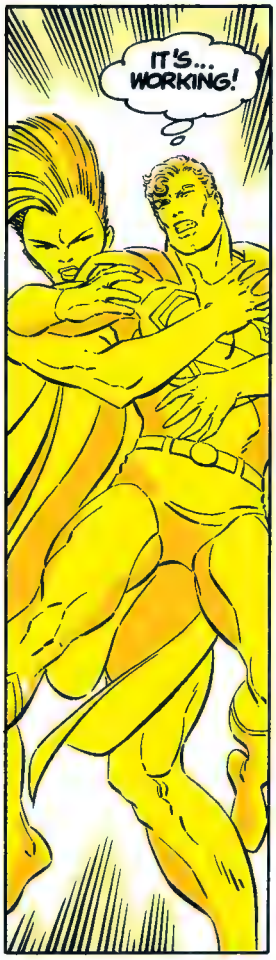

NO, SUPERMAN! I'M OVER HERE! I'M OKAY!
EASY, LOIS.
THAT MONSTER IS KITTY FAULKNER!!
SHE'S THE ONE WHO TOOK THE FULL FORCE OF THE BIO-ENERGY DISCHARGE!!

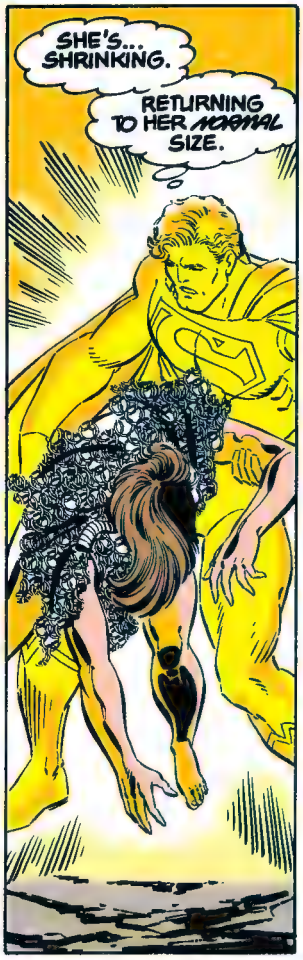
WHA...??
UNGH!!

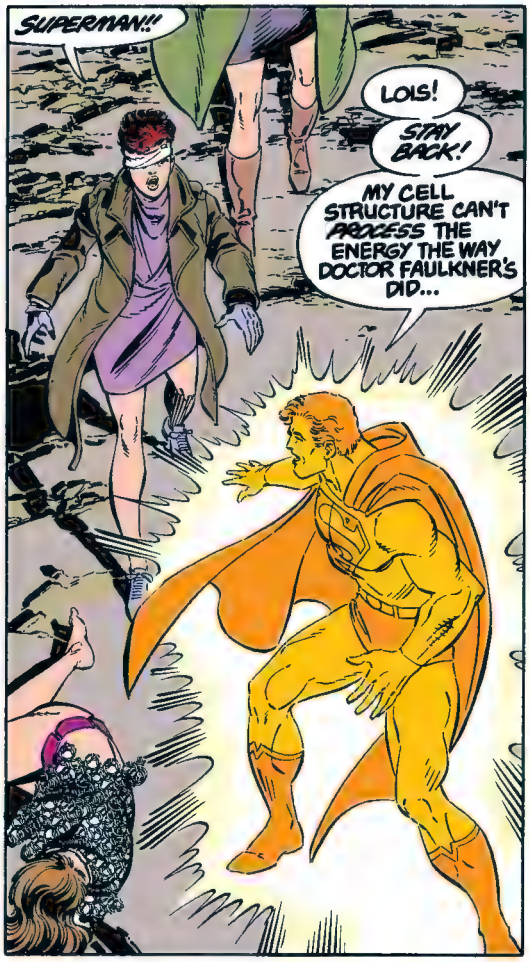

HHRHRR!!
THAT... BLOW...
NEARLY TOOK THE BACK OF MY HEAD OFF.
NOW...
SHE'S TRYING TO SQUEEZE THE LIFE OUT OF ME.
NOT... JUST... TRYING... EITHER.
CAN... BARELY... CATCH MY... BREATH!
I CAN... SURVIVE... WITHOUT AIR A LOT LONGER THAN MOST PEOPLE... BUT THE PAIN WHERE SHE'S TOUCHING ME... THE DIZZINESS... WEAKNESS...
NO! IT ISN'T WEAKNESS!!
IN FACT...
IT'S JUST THE OPPOSITE! I FEEL ALMOST... SUPER-CHARGED!!
THAT'S IT!!
THAT'S GOT TO BE THE ANSWER! IF I CAN TOLERATE THE PAIN...
I THINK I CAN BEAT HER IF I CAN HOLD ON TO HER--
--THAT IS, IF IT DOESN'T KILL ME FIRST!!

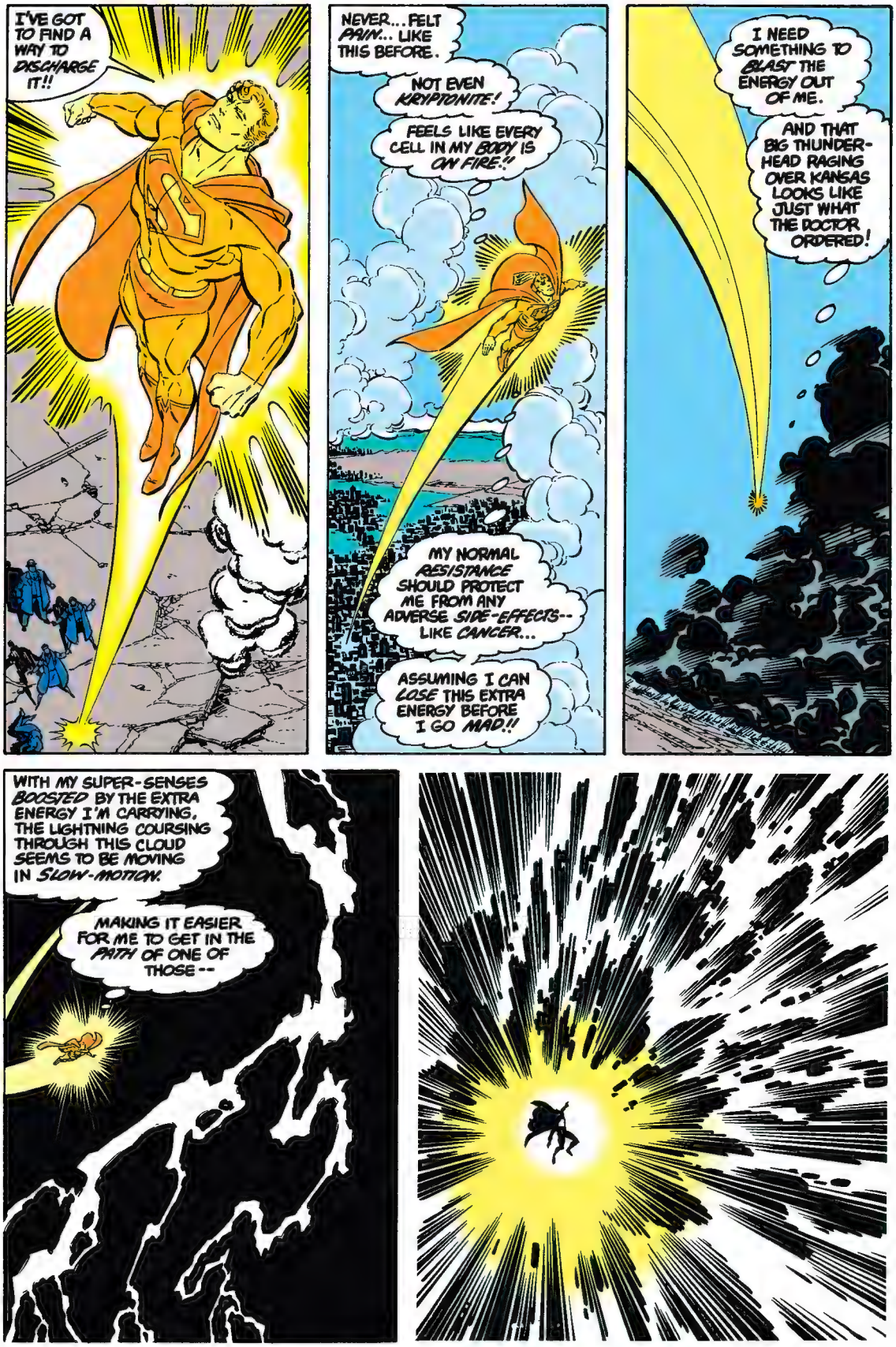
TH-THEY'RE GLOWING LIKE A SMALL STAR!!
WHAT'S HAPPENING?!?
IT'S... THE BIO-ENERGY! IT'S JUST CONVERTED SOLAR RADIATION!
SUPERMAN MUST BE LETTING HIS OWN CELLS ABSORB IT! HE'S DRAWING IT OUT OF HER!!

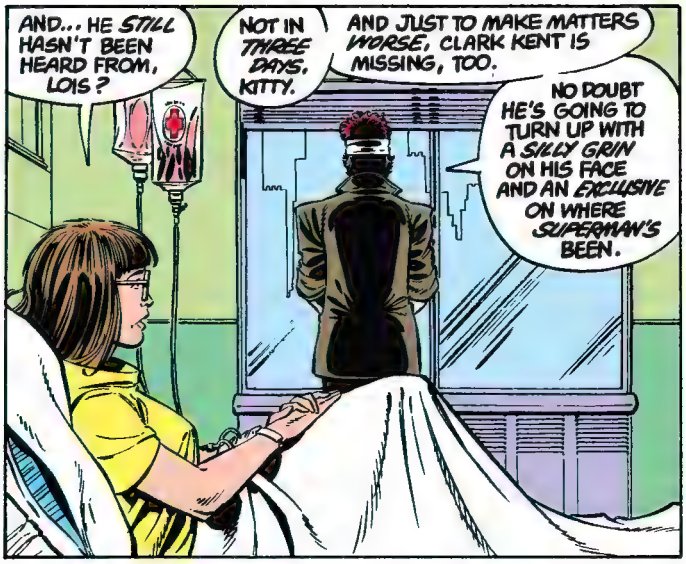
WHAT?!?
BUT SUPERMAN'S CELLS ABSORB SOLAR ENERGY SLOWLY, OVER A LONG PERIOD!
WHAT WILL IT DO TO HIM, TAKING IN THAT MUCH POWER ALL AT THE SAME TIME??
I...I CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO GUESS! WE KNOW TOO LITTLE ABOUT HOW SUPERMAN'S BODY WORKS.
BUT...
LOOK!!


IT'S... WORKING!

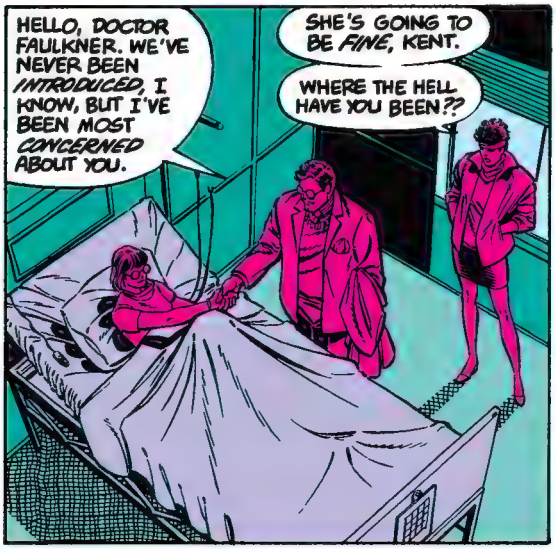

SHE'S... SHRINKING.
RETURNING TO HER NORMAL SIZE.


SUPERMAN!!
LOIS!
STAY BACK!
MY CELL STRUCTURE CAN'T PROCESS THE ENERGY THE WAY DOCTOR FAULKNER'S DID...

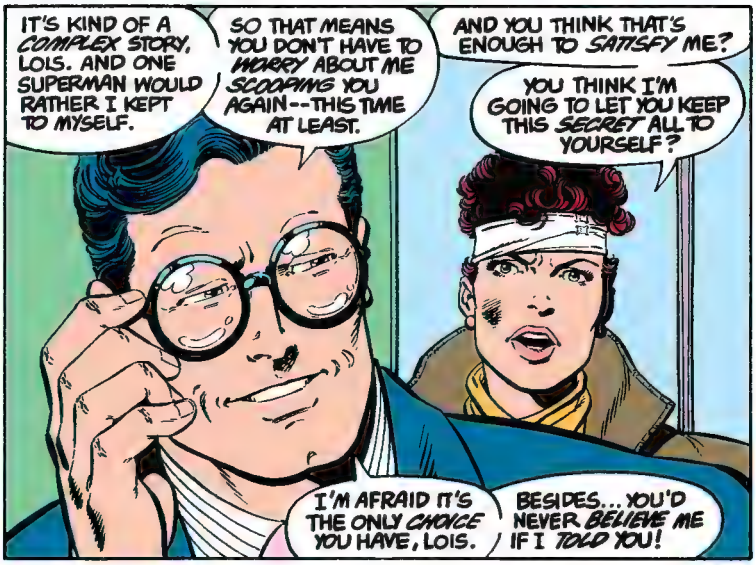

I'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY TO DISCHARGE IT!!
NEVER... FELT PAIN... LIKE THIS BEFORE.
NOT EVEN KRYPTONITE!
FEELS LIKE EVERY CELL IN MY BODY IS ON FIRE!!
MY NORMAL RESISTANCE SHOULD PROTECT ME FROM ANY ADVERSE SIDE-EFFECTS-- LIKE CANCER...
ASSUMING I CAN LOSE THIS EXTRA ENERGY BEFORE I GO MAD!!
I NEED SOMETHING TO BLAST THE ENERGY OUT OF ME.
AND THAT BIG THUNDER-HEAD RAGING OVER KANSAS LOOKS LIKE JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED!
WITH MY SUPER-SENSES BOOSTED BY THE EXTRA ENERGY I'M CARRYING, THE LIGHTNING COURSING THROUGH THIS CLOUD SEEMS TO BE MOVING IN SLOW-MOTION.
MAKING IT EASIER FOR ME TO GET IN THE PATH OF ONE OF THOSE --


AND... HE STILL HASN'T BEEN HEARD FROM, LOIS?
NOT IN THREE DAYS, KITTY.
AND JUST TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, CLARK KENT IS MISSING, TOO.
NO DOUBT HE'S GOING TO TURN UP WITH A SILLY GRIN ON HIS FACE AND AN EXCLUSIVE ON WHERE SUPERMAN'S BEEN.

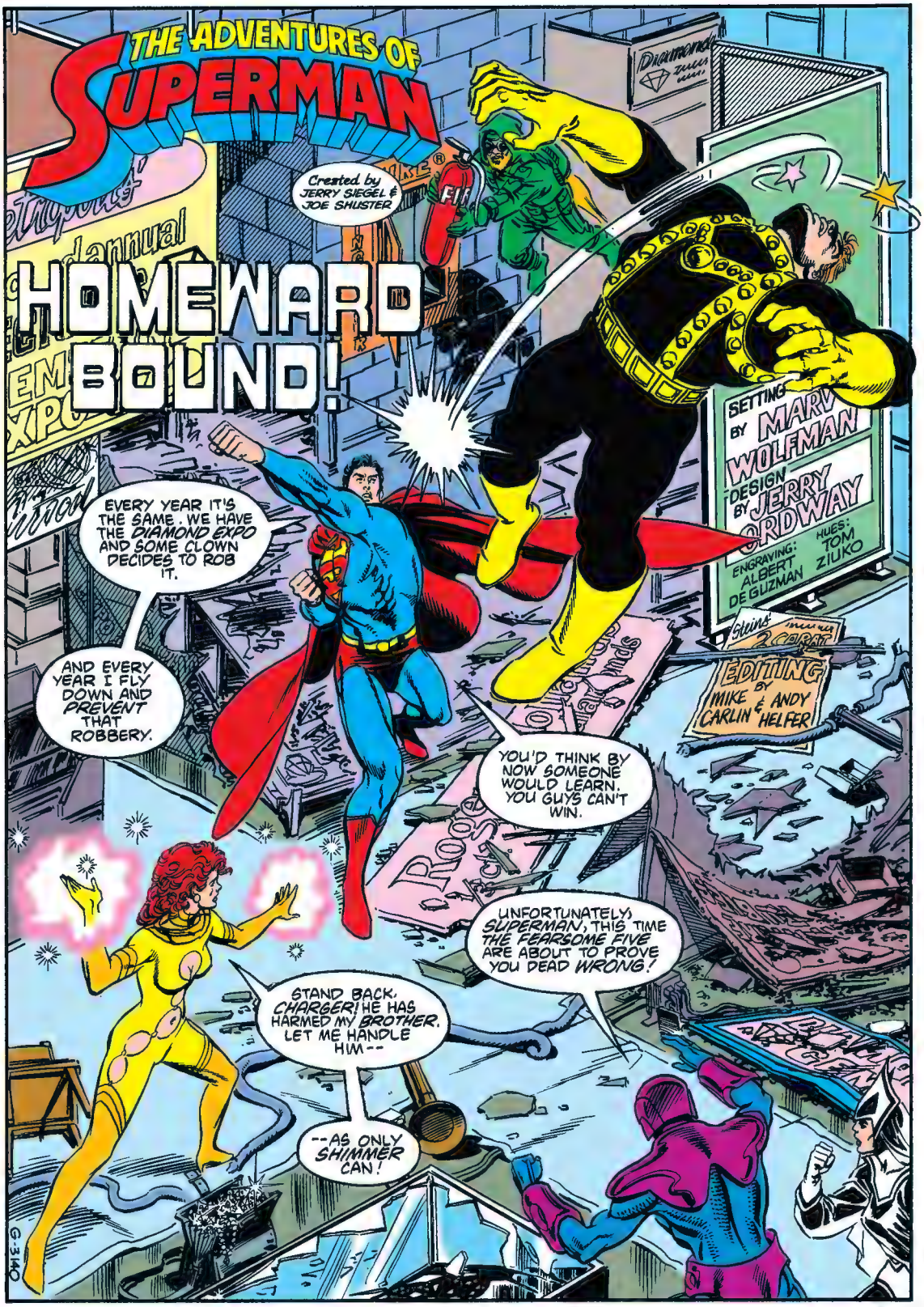
WELL...
KENT!!
NOT A SILLY GRIN, SURELY!


HELLO, DOCTOR FAULKNER. WE'VE NEVER BEEN INTRODUCED, I KNOW, BUT I'VE BEEN MOST CONCERNED ABOUT YOU.
SHE'S GOING TO BE FINE, KENT.
WHERE THE HELL HAVE YOU BEEN??

OH--WITH SUPERMAN, AS YOU GUESSED, LOIS.
AND HE'S FINE TOO, BY THE WAY.
BUT... WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM? WHY HAS HE BEEN OUT OF SIGHT FOR THREE DAYS?
THE LOCAL MOBSTERS WERE STARTING TO THINK IT WAS SAFE TO COME CRAWLING OUT OF THEIR RATHOLES AGAIN!

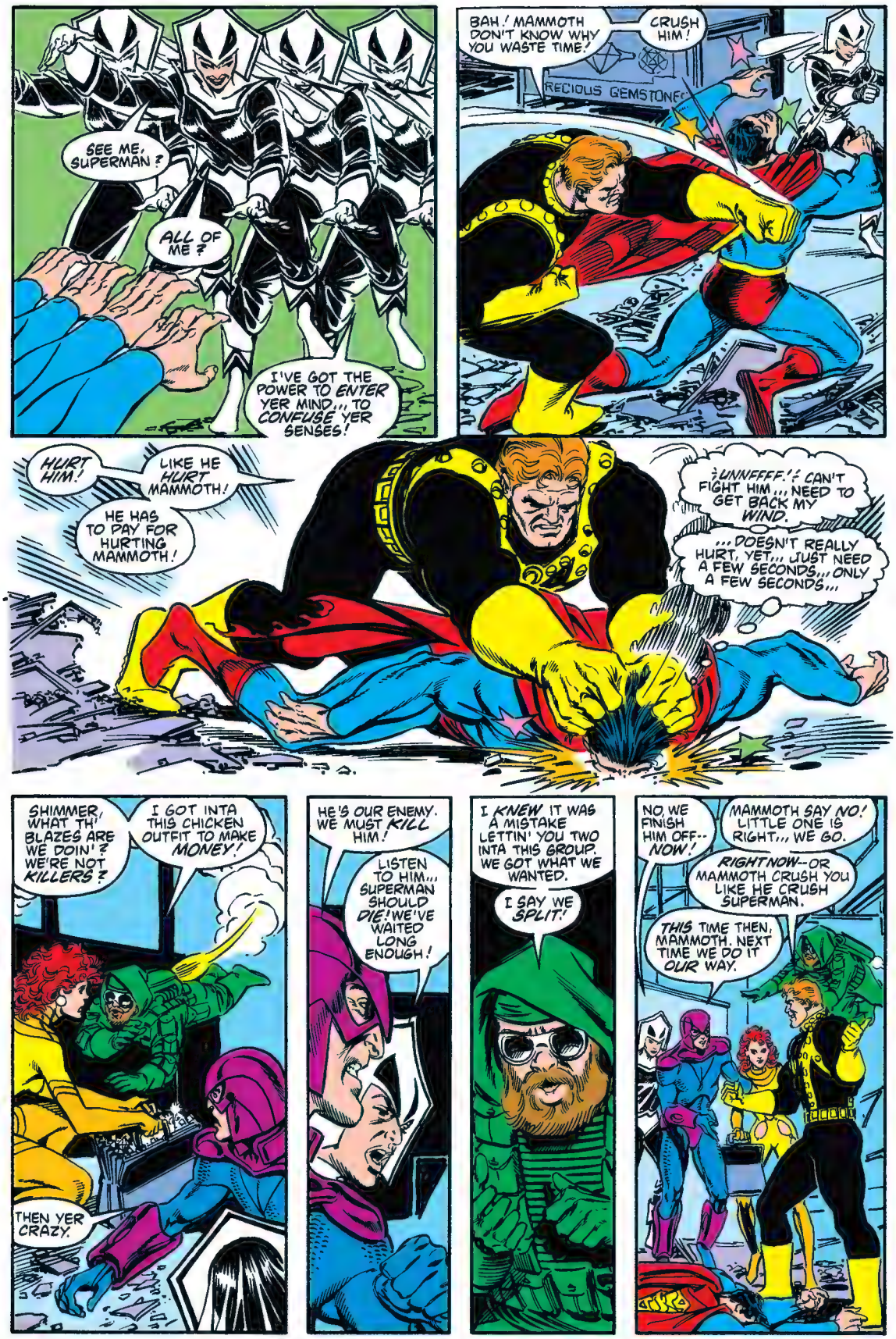

IT'S KIND OF A COMPLEX STORY, LOIS. AND ONE SUPERMAN WOULD RATHER I KEPT TO MYSELF.
SO THAT MEANS YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ME SCOOPING YOU AGAIN--THIS TIME AT LEAST.
AND YOU THINK THAT'S ENOUGH TO SATISFY ME?
YOU THINK I'M GOING TO LET YOU KEEP THIS SECRET ALL TO YOURSELF?
I'M AFRAID IT'S THE ONLY CHOICE YOU HAVE, LOIS.
BESIDES... YOU'D NEVER BELIEVE ME IF I TOLD YOU!

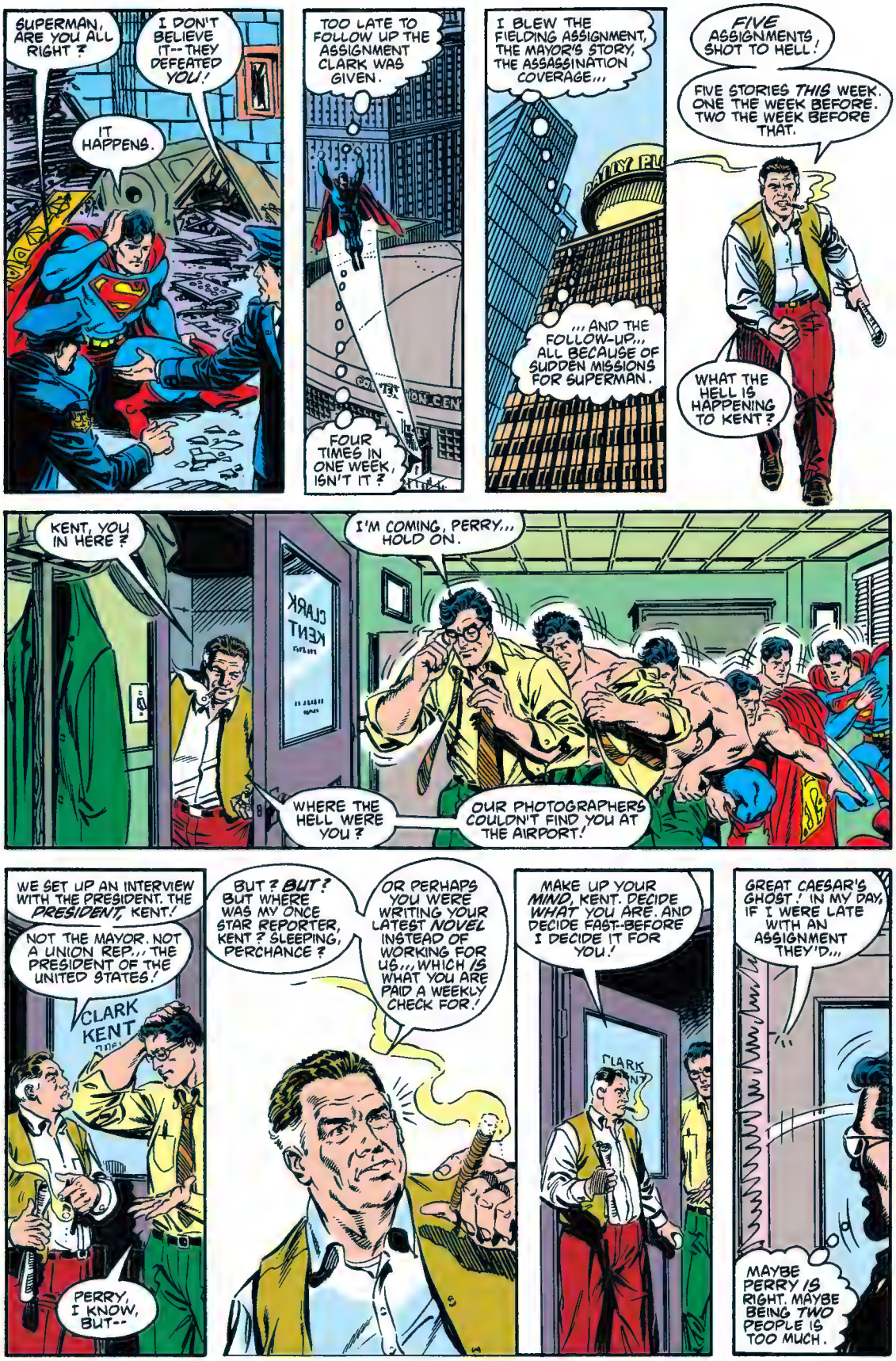
NEXT ISSUE:
WHERE HAS SUPERMAN BEEN? OR PERHAPS WE SHOULD ASK WHEN...? FIND OUT IN 30 DAYS IN...
SUPERMAN #8
GUEST-STARRING THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES!


THE ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
HOMEWARD BOUND!
SETTING BY MARV WOLFMAN
DESIGN BY JERRY ORDWAY
ENGRAVING: ALBERT DE GUZMAN
HUES: TOM ZIUKO
EDITING BY MIKE & ANDY CARLIN & HELFER
EVERY YEAR IT'S THE SAME. WE HAVE THE DIAMOND EXPO AND SOME CLOWN DECIDES TO ROB IT.
AND EVERY YEAR I FLY DOWN AND PREVENT THAT ROBBERY.
YOU'D THINK BY NOW SOMEONE WOULD LEARN. YOU GUYS CAN'T WIN.
UNFORTUNATELY, SUPERMAN, THIS TIME THE FEARSOME FIVE ARE ABOUT TO PROVE YOU DEAD WRONG!
STAND BACK, CHARGER! HE HAS HARMED MY BROTHER. LET ME HANDLE HIM--
--AS ONLY SHIMMER CAN!
GEMO

BEHOLD, SUPERMAN! MINE IS THE POWER TO ALTER MATTER!
FOR FIVE MINUTES, THE GROUND UNDER YOU WILL BECOME QUICKSAND!
BUT FIVE MINUTES IS LONG ENOUGH TO DRAW YOU TO YOUR DOOM!
THE QUICKSAND WON'T SUFFOCATE ME, AND IT'S EASY ENOUGH TO PULL FREE.
NOT MUCH TO PUSH AGAINST... BUT I DON'T NEED MUCH.
I TOLD SHIMMER NOT TO COME TO METROPOLIS, BUT WOULD SHE LISTEN TO ME? NOOOOO!
"EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT, GIZMO. YOU'LL SEE," SHE SEZ!
HUMBUG!
SO, NATCH, IT TAKES GUESS WHO TO SAVE THE DAY?
AND WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF I DIDN'T HAVE THE UNCANNY ABILITY TO TURN ANYTHING MECHANICAL INTO SOMETHING ELSE--
--LIKE AN ORDINARY FIRE EXTINGUISHER INTO A LETHAL TORPEDO?
WITHOUT ME, THE FEARSOME FIVE WOULD BE PAST TENSE.
EXCELLENT, LITTLE ONE... SUPERMAN IS DOWN!
WHAT DID YOU EXPECT, SHIMMER? I'M A PRO, A BUSINESSMAN! I DON'T MAKE MISTAKES.
CHARGER, PERHAPS IT IS TIME FOR SUPERMAN TO OFFICIALLY MEET THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF THE FEARSOME FIVE?
M'THOUGHTS 'XACTLY, DEUCE.
JUST NEED ME A LITTLE POWER CHARGE--
AN' I CAN MAKE A 'LECTRIC CHAIR TURN GREEN WITH ENVY.

SKRAAAKKKK
DOESN'T TAKE MUCH, DOES IT, SUPES?
A ZILLION WATTS AND YER CREAMED CHEESE.
A ZILLION MORE--
--AN' YER DEAD MEAT!
NOT GONE YET, SUPES? MEBBE SOME MORE-- JUST TA PUSH YA OVER THE EDGE.
NO, NOT YET... LET ME TOY WITH HIM-- THEN WE CAN BOTH DESTROY SUPERMAN.
GO RIGHT 'HEAD, LOVE. GET YER KICKS.

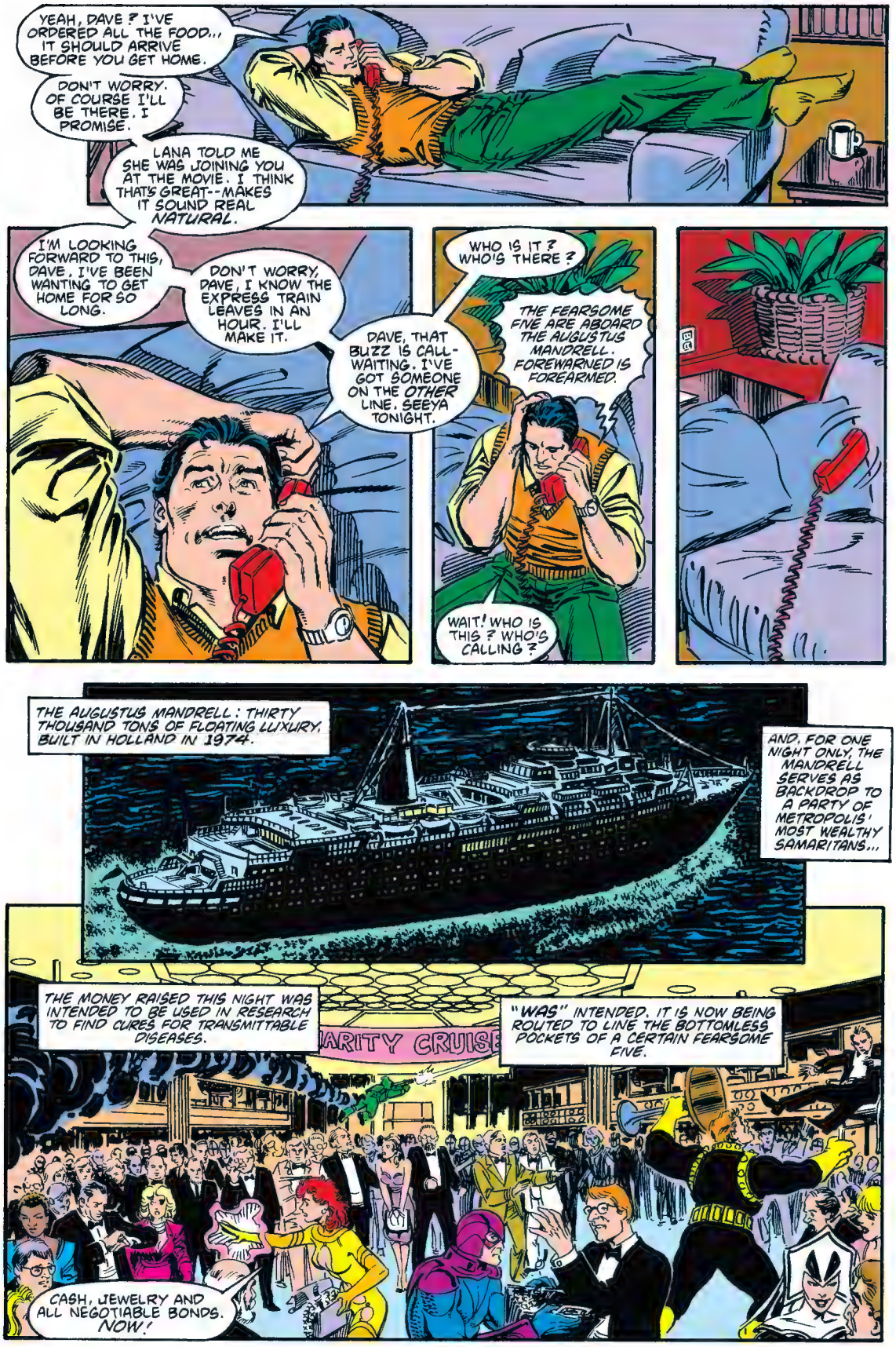

SEE ME, SUPERMAN?
ALL OF ME?
I'VE GOT THE POWER TO ENTER YER MIND,,, TO CONFUSE YER SENSES!
BAH! MAMMOTH DON'T KNOW WHY YOU WASTE TIME!
CRUSH HIM!
PRECIOUS GEMSTONES
HURT HIM!
LIKE HE HURT MAMMOTH!
HE HAS TO PAY FOR HURTING MAMMOTH!
UNNFFFF! CAN'T FIGHT HIM,,, NEED TO GET BACK MY WIND.
,,,DOESN'T REALLY HURT, YET,,, JUST NEED A FEW SECONDS,,, ONLY A FEW SECONDS,,,
SHIMMER, WHAT TH' BLAZES ARE WE DOIN'? WE'RE NOT KILLERS?
I GOT INTA THIS CHICKEN OUTFIT TO MAKE MONEY!
THEN YER CRAZY.
HE'S OUR ENEMY. WE MUST KILL HIM!
LISTEN TO HIM,,, SUPERMAN SHOULD DIE! WE'VE WAITED LONG ENOUGH!
I KNEW IT WAS A MISTAKE LETTIN' YOU TWO INTA THIS GROUP. WE GOT WHAT WE WANTED.
I SAY WE SPLIT!
NO, WE FINISH HIM OFF-- NOW!
MAMMOTH SAY NO! LITTLE ONE IS RIGHT,,, WE GO.
RIGHT NOW--OR MAMMOTH CRUSH YOU LIKE HE CRUSH SUPERMAN.
THIS TIME THEN, MAMMOTH. NEXT TIME WE DO IT OUR WAY.

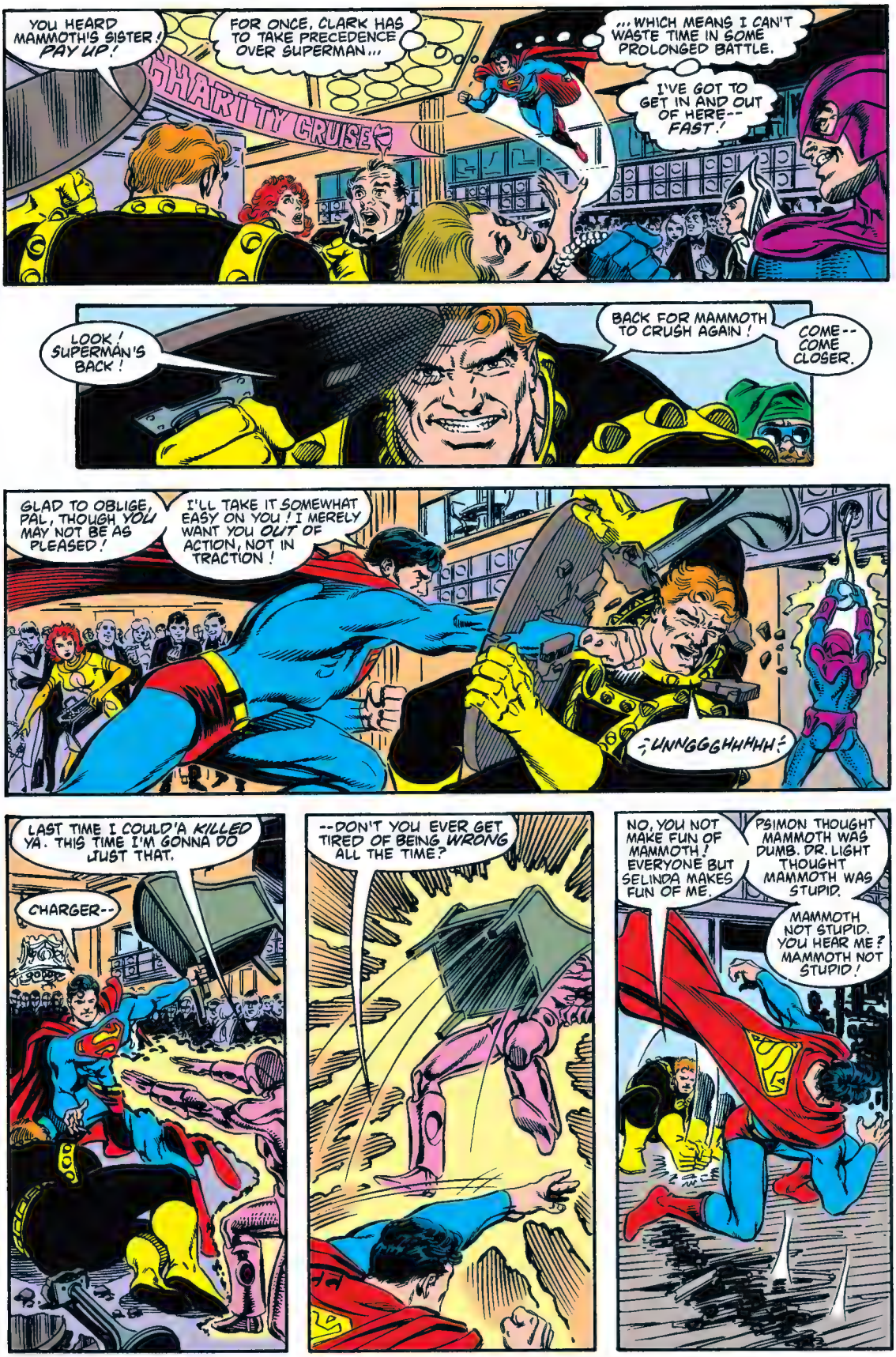

SUPERMAN, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I DON'T BELIEVE IT--THEY DEFEATED YOU!
IT HAPPENS.
TOO LATE TO FOLLOW UP THE ASSIGNMENT CLARK WAS GIVEN.
FOUR TIMES IN ONE WEEK, ISN'T IT?
I BLEW THE FIELDING ASSIGNMENT, THE MAYOR'S STORY, THE ASSASSINATION COVERAGE...
...AND THE FOLLOW-UP... ALL BECAUSE OF SUDDEN MISSIONS FOR SUPERMAN.
FIVE ASSIGNMENTS! SHOT TO HELL!
FIVE STORIES THIS WEEK. ONE THE WEEK BEFORE. TWO THE WEEK BEFORE THAT.
WHAT THE HELL IS HAPPENING TO KENT?
KENT, YOU IN HERE?
I'M COMING, PERRY... HOLD ON.
CLARK KENT
WHERE THE HELL WERE YOU?
OUR PHOTOGRAPHERS COULDN'T FIND YOU AT THE AIRPORT!
WE SET UP AN INTERVIEW WITH THE PRESIDENT. THE PRESIDENT, KENT!
NOT THE MAYOR. NOT A UNION REP... THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES!
CLARK KENT
PERRY, I KNOW, BUT--
BUT? BUT? BUT WHERE WAS MY ONCE STAR REPORTER, KENT? SLEEPING, PERCHANCE?
OR PERHAPS YOU WERE WRITING YOUR LATEST NOVEL INSTEAD OF WORKING FOR US... WHICH IS WHAT YOU ARE PAID A WEEKLY CHECK FOR!
MAKE UP YOUR MIND, KENT. DECIDE WHAT YOU ARE. AND DECIDE FAST--BEFORE I DECIDE IT FOR YOU!
CLARK KENT
GREAT CAESAR'S GHOST! IN MY DAY, IF I WERE LATE WITH AN ASSIGNMENT THEY'D...
MAYBE PERRY IS RIGHT. MAYBE BEING TWO PEOPLE IS TOO MUCH.

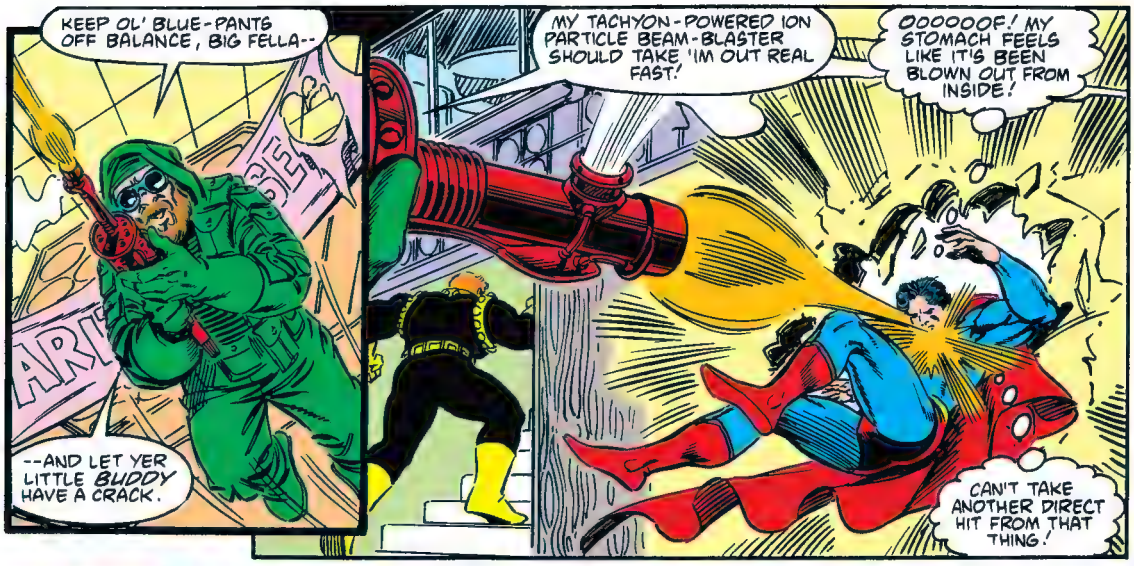
HIYA, CLARK, CAN I--
C'MON, SIT DOWN, CAT.
...SO LISTEN, DAVE, REMEMBER-- DON'T SAY ANYTHING TO MY PARENTS ABOUT THEIR 49th ANNIVERSARY.
THE PARTY'S GOING TO BE A SURPRISE.
YOU JUST GET THEM OUT OF THE HOUSE, AND I'LL HANDLE THE REST.
YEAH, TAKE CARE.
SO, YOU'RE NOT ONLY GORGEOUS AND A GREAT WRITER, BUT YOU'RE ALSO THE GREATEST SON IN THE WORLD. FIGURES.
IT'S NOT THAT HARD, CAT.
THOSE TWO SHAPED MY ENTIRE LIFE... TAUGHT ME ALL MY VALUES.
MY GOODNESS! I'VE MET THE LAST MAN EVER TO BE RAISED BY CERTIFIED SAINTS.
C'MON, LET'S GET LUNCH. I'M STARVED.
THE NEW JERSEY PALISADES...
WE SHOULDA KILLED 'IM. FRIED HIM LIKE POTATOES!
WHEN WE ADVERTISED IN "THE VOICE" IT WAS FOR SUPER-POWERED THIEVES--NOT KILLERS!
WHICH ONLY PROVES YER ALL WIMPS!
LISTEN, YOU SECOND-RATE ELECTRIC PLANT, IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RULES HERE, YOU AND YOUR BLEACHED BLONDE BIMBO CAN BLOW WIND ELSEWHERE!
UNNNHHH
WE PLAY THIS GAME MY WAY!
I'M FED UP WITH YA, LADY. YOU, YER STUPID BROTHER, AN' YER STUPID GROUP!

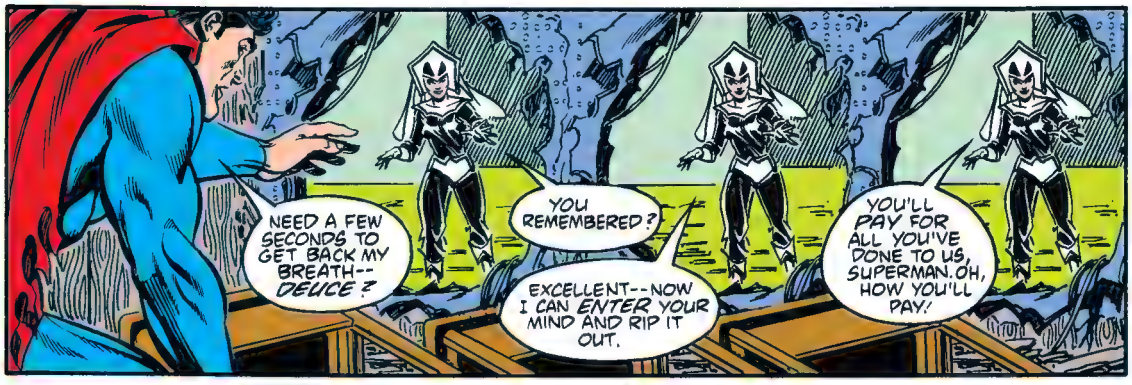
UNNN... DON'T UNDERSTAND... CAN'T LIFT TINY WEIGHT!
C'MON, BIG FELLA, SURE YOU CAN.
OR HE COULD, IF I HADN'T GRAVITY-CONTROLLED THE WEIGHT TO SIXTY-SEVEN TONS!
AWWW, I BET EVEN A LITTLE GUY LIKE ME CAN LIFT IT.
THERE, Y'SEE? PIECE O' CAKE! HERE, CATCH.
HEY! DON'T--!
HUH?
THIS DON'T WEIGH NOTHIN'!
DON'T UNDERSTAND. HURTS MY HEAD TO TRY AN' FIGURE.
MAMMOTH GO LIE DOWN AND WATCH PEE WEE HERMAN AGAIN.
LIKE "LARGE MARGE" THE BEST.
I SHOULD FRY YOU JUST FOR THE HELL OF IT!
UNH-UH--DON'T SAY NOTHIN' LIKE THAT TO MY SISTER.
OR MAMMOTH ROLL YOU INTO LITTLE GLOWING BALL.
MAM, M' LAD, DON'T TOUCH CHARGER--
NOT WHILE HE'S ALL CHARGED UP!
LET THE STUPID BOZO LEARN FOR HIMSELF, DWARF!
NOBODY CAN STOP ME, CRETIN!
NOT SUPERMAN! NOT YOU!

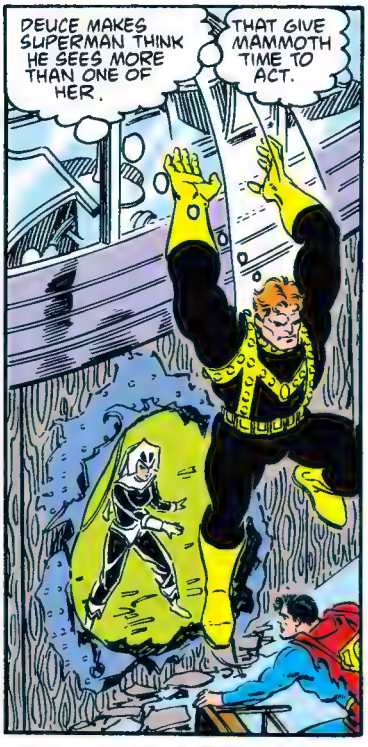
A WEEK PASSES, AND LIFE, AS IT ALWAYS DOES, GOES ON. CLARK PREPARES FOR HIS PARENTS' ANNIVERSARY WHILE TRYING TO COVER ALL HIS ASSIGNMENTS.
BY TUESDAY, HIS BEST INTENTIONS ARE BLOWN, AS HE FINDS HIMSELF BATTLING ALONGSIDE THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS.
THAT EVENING, HE MISSES A DATE WITH CATHERINE GRANT IN ORDER TO SAVE A SMALL VILLAGE IN BRAZIL.
ON WEDNESDAY, AN INTERVIEW WITH U. N. DELEGATE SASHA YORVIS IS MISSED. CLARK RESCHEDULES IT LATER THAT SAME DAY...
ON THURSDAY, SUPERMAN FINDS HIMSELF IN BATTLE WITH THE WOMAN CALLED RAMPAGE.
AND YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED ON FRIDAY.
Shady Rest Nursing Home
BY SATURDAY, CLARK HAS COMPLETED ONLY THREE OF SIX ASSIGNMENTS. PERRY WHITE IS NOT HAPPY.

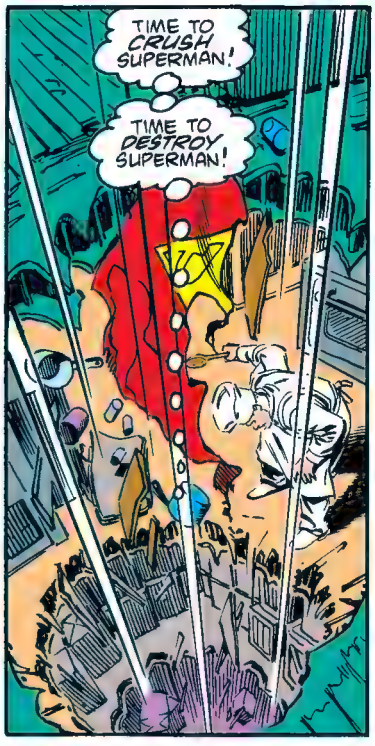

YEAH, DAVE? I'VE ORDERED ALL THE FOOD... IT SHOULD ARRIVE BEFORE YOU GET HOME.
DON'T WORRY. OF COURSE I'LL BE THERE. I PROMISE.
LANA TOLD ME SHE WAS JOINING YOU AT THE MOVIE. I THINK THAT'S GREAT--MAKES IT SOUND REAL NATURAL.
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS, DAVE. I'VE BEEN WANTING TO GET HOME FOR SO LONG.
DON'T WORRY, DAVE, I KNOW THE EXPRESS TRAIN LEAVES IN AN HOUR. I'LL MAKE IT.
DAVE, THAT BUZZ IS CALL-WAITING. I'VE GOT SOMEONE ON THE OTHER LINE. SEEYA TONIGHT.
WHO IS IT? WHO'S THERE?
THE FEARSOME FIVE ARE ABOARD THE AUGUSTUS MANDRELL. FOREWARNED IS FOREARMED.
WAIT! WHO IS THIS? WHO'S CALLING?
THE AUGUSTUS MANDRELL: THIRTY THOUSAND TONS OF FLOATING LUXURY. BUILT IN HOLLAND IN 1974.
AND, FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY, THE MANDRELL SERVES AS BACKDROP TO A PARTY OF METROPOLIS' MOST WEALTHY SAMARITANS...
THE MONEY RAISED THIS NIGHT WAS INTENDED TO BE USED IN RESEARCH TO FIND CURES FOR TRANSMITTABLE DISEASES.
"WAS" INTENDED. IT IS NOW BEING ROUTED TO LINE THE BOTTOMLESS POCKETS OF A CERTAIN FEARSOME FIVE.
CASH, JEWELRY AND ALL NEGOTIABLE BONDS. NOW!

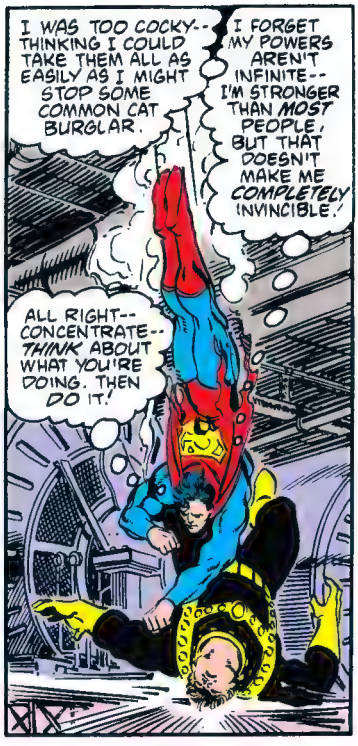

YOU HEARD MAMMOTH'S SISTER! PAY UP!
FOR ONCE, CLARK HAS TO TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER SUPERMAN...
...WHICH MEANS I CAN'T WASTE TIME IN SOME PROLONGED BATTLE.
I'VE GOT TO GET IN AND OUT OF HERE-- FAST!
CHARITY CRUISE
LOOK! SUPERMAN'S BACK!
BACK FOR MAMMOTH TO CRUSH AGAIN!
COME-- COME CLOSER.
GLAD TO OBLIGE, PAL, THOUGH YOU MAY NOT BE AS PLEASED!
I'LL TAKE IT SOMEWHAT EASY ON YOU! I MERELY WANT YOU OUT OF ACTION, NOT IN TRACTION!
;UNNGGGHHHHH;
LAST TIME I COULD'A KILLED YA. THIS TIME I'M GONNA DO JUST THAT.
CHARGER--
--DON'T YOU EVER GET TIRED OF BEING WRONG ALL THE TIME?
NO, YOU NOT MAKE FUN OF MAMMOTH! EVERYONE BUT SELINDA MAKES FUN OF ME.
PSIMON THOUGHT MAMMOTH WAS DUMB. DR. LIGHT THOUGHT MAMMOTH WAS STUPID.
MAMMOTH NOT STUPID. YOU HEAR ME? MAMMOTH NOT STUPID!

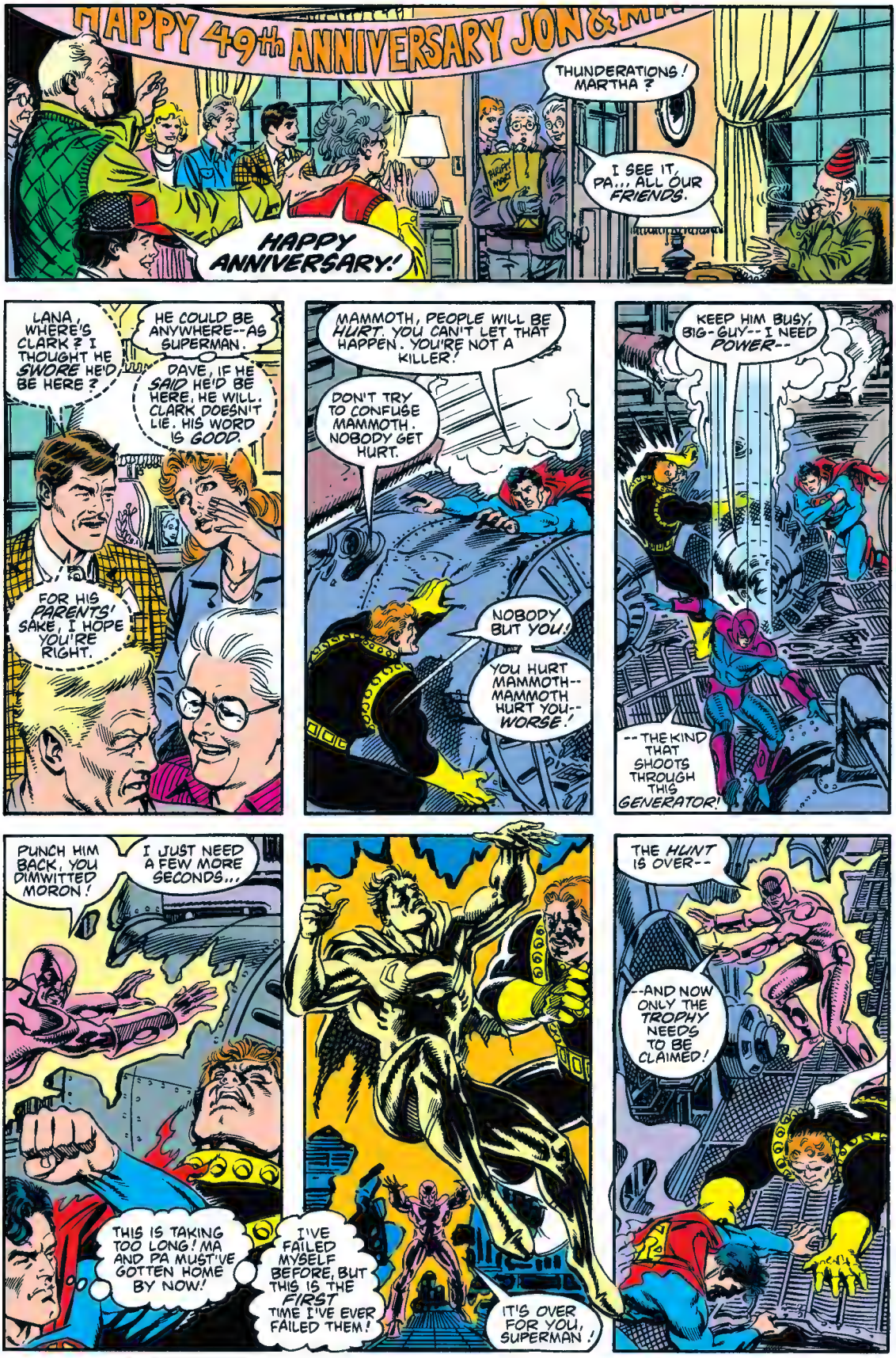

KEEP OL' BLUE-PANTS OFF BALANCE, BIG FELLA--
--AND LET YER LITTLE BUDDY HAVE A CRACK.
MY TACHYON-POWERED ION PARTICLE BEAM-BLASTER SHOULD TAKE 'IM OUT REAL FAST!
OOOOOOF! MY STOMACH FEELS LIKE IT'S BEEN BLOWN OUT FROM INSIDE!
CAN'T TAKE ANOTHER DIRECT HIT FROM THAT THING!

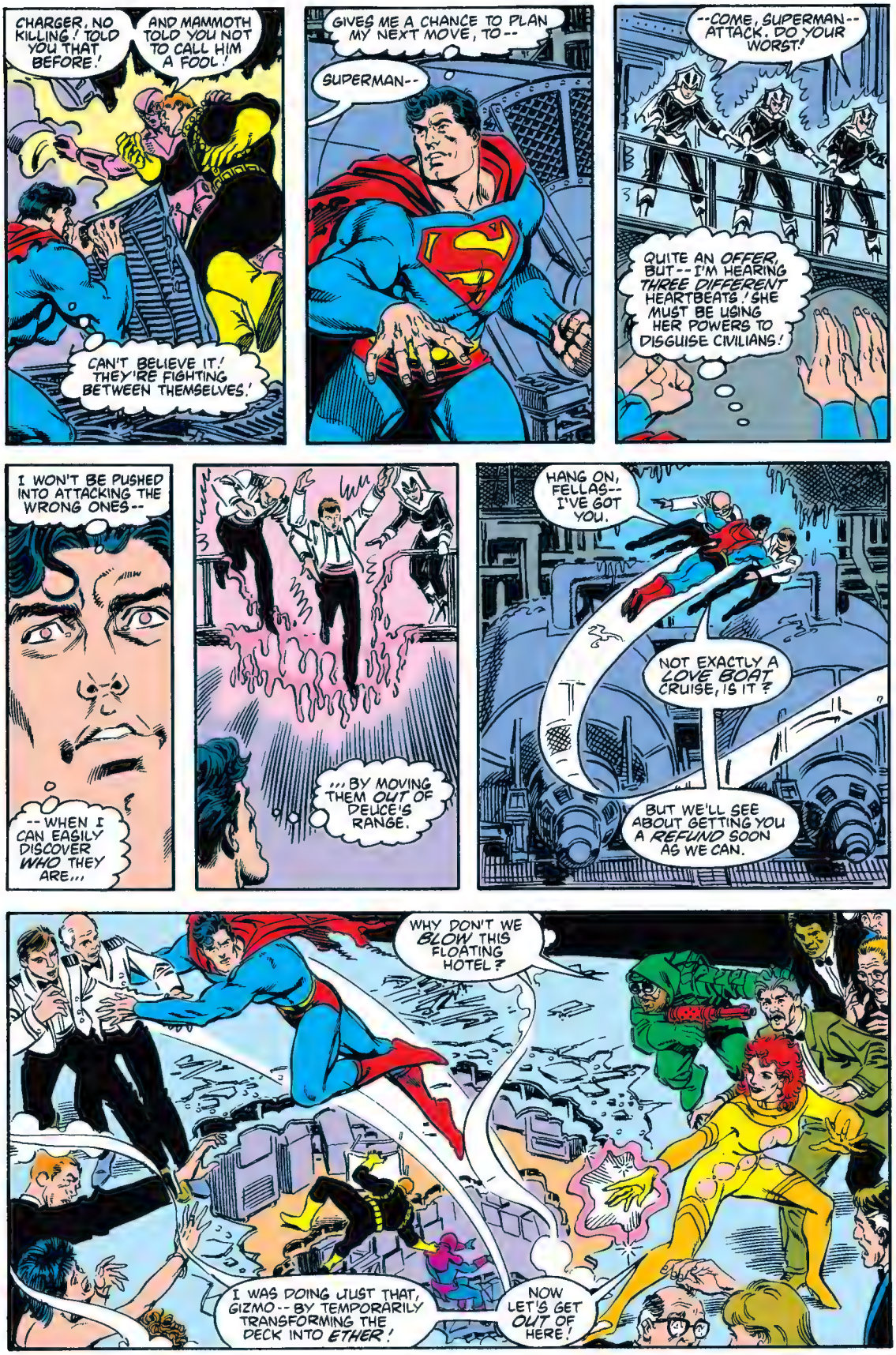

NEED A FEW SECONDS TO GET BACK MY BREATH-- DEUCE?
YOU REMEMBERED?
EXCELLENT--NOW I CAN ENTER YOUR MIND AND RIP IT OUT.
YOU'LL PAY FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE TO US, SUPERMAN. OH, HOW YOU'LL PAY!


DEUCE MAKES SUPERMAN THINK HE SEES MORE THAN ONE OF HER.
THAT GIVE MAMMOTH TIME TO ACT.


TIME TO CRUSH SUPERMAN!
TIME TO DESTROY SUPERMAN!

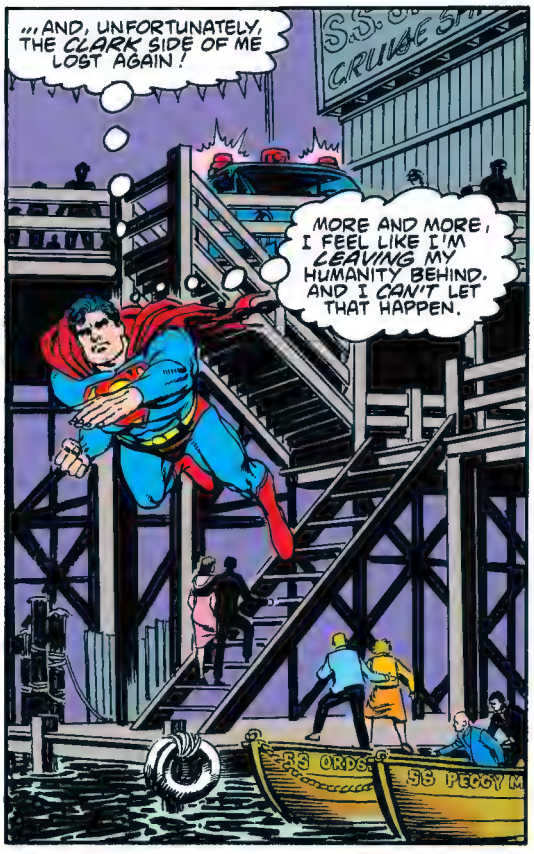

I WAS TOO COCKY--THINKING I COULD TAKE THEM ALL AS EASILY AS I MIGHT STOP SOME COMMON CAT BURGLAR.
I FORGET MY POWERS AREN'T INFINITE--I'M STRONGER THAN MOST PEOPLE, BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE ME COMPLETELY INVINCIBLE!
ALL RIGHT--CONCENTRATE--THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE DOING. THEN DO IT!


HAPPY 49th ANNIVERSARY JON &
THUNDERATIONS! MARTHA?
I SEE IT, PA... ALL OUR FRIENDS.
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!
LANA, WHERE'S CLARK? I THOUGHT HE SWORE HE'D BE HERE?
HE COULD BE ANYWHERE--AS SUPERMAN.
DAVE, IF HE SAID HE'D BE HERE, HE WILL. CLARK DOESN'T LIE. HIS WORD IS GOOD.
FOR HIS PARENTS' SAKE, I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT.
MAMMOTH, PEOPLE WILL BE HURT. YOU CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN. YOU'RE NOT A KILLER!
DON'T TRY TO CONFUSE MAMMOTH. NOBODY GET HURT.
NOBODY BUT YOU!
YOU HURT MAMMOTH--MAMMOTH HURT YOU--WORSE!
KEEP HIM BUSY, BIG-GUY--I NEED POWER--
--THE KIND THAT SHOOTS THROUGH THIS GENERATOR!
PUNCH HIM BACK, YOU DIMWITTED MORON!
I JUST NEED A FEW MORE SECONDS...
THIS IS TAKING TOO LONG! MA AND PA MUST'VE GOTTEN HOME BY NOW!
I'VE FAILED MYSELF BEFORE, BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER FAILED THEM!
IT'S OVER FOR YOU, SUPERMAN!
THE HUNT IS OVER--
--AND NOW ONLY THE TROPHY NEEDS TO BE CLAIMED!


CHARGER, NO KILLING! TOLD YOU THAT BEFORE!
AND MAMMOTH TOLD YOU NOT TO CALL HIM A FOOL!
CAN'T BELIEVE IT! THEY'RE FIGHTING BETWEEN THEMSELVES!
GIVES ME A CHANCE TO PLAN MY NEXT MOVE, TO--
SUPERMAN--
--COME, SUPERMAN-- ATTACK. DO YOUR WORST!
QUITE AN OFFER, BUT-- I'M HEARING THREE DIFFERENT HEARTBEATS! SHE MUST BE USING HER POWERS TO DISGUISE CIVILIANS!
I WON'T BE PUSHED INTO ATTACKING THE WRONG ONES--
--WHEN I CAN EASILY DISCOVER WHO THEY ARE...
...BY MOVING THEM OUT OF DEUCE'S RANGE.
HANG ON, FELLAS-- I'VE GOT YOU.
NOT EXACTLY A LOVE BOAT CRUISE, IS IT?
BUT WE'LL SEE ABOUT GETTING YOU A REFUND SOON AS WE CAN.
WHY DON'T WE BLOW THIS FLOATING HOTEL?
I WAS DOING JUST THAT, GIZMO-- BY TEMPORARILY TRANSFORMING THE DECK INTO ETHER!
NOW LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

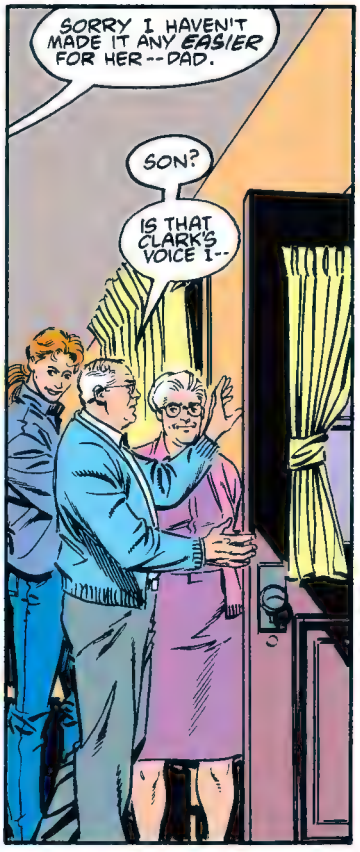
SUPERMAN WILL BE TOO BUSY SAVING THE SHIP TO BOTHER WITH US.
NEXT TIME MAMMOTH PUNCH HIM OUT-- GOOD!
NONE'A YA GOT THE GUTS. WE SHOULD'A KILLED HIM LIKE DEUCE AN' ME SAID!
MEANWHILE...
CLARK IS SUPPOSED TO BE HERE, MR. AND MRS. KENT. HE SAID HE WAS ON HIS WAY.
THEN HE IS. CLARK IS A BUSY MAN... BUT HE'S ALSO A MAN OF HIS WORD.
I DON'T REALLY MIND, MARTHA... THINK OF IT THIS WAY --HE THOUGHT OF THIS PARTY, AND IT'S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS.
STILL, I AM WORRIED. WHAT IF HE--
DON'T WORRY, MA--YOU KNOW OUR SON... AND YOU KNOW THE SORTS OF TROUBLES HE HAS.
HE'LL BE JUST FINE, YOU'LL SEE.
LET'S JUST ENJOY THE FESTIVITIES, EH?
"AFTER ALL, MA, HE'S GIVEN US MORE TO BE HAPPY ABOUT THAN MOST FOLK."
THE SHIP'S TOTALLY EVAPORATED--AND I CAN'T CATCH ALL OF THEM AT ONCE!
THOSE OF YOU OUT OF MY RANGE--HIT THE WATER LIKE YOU'RE DIVING INTO IT!
I'LL GET TO ALL OF YOU FAST AS I CAN!
IF THEY DON'T PANIC, EVERYONE SHOULD BE SAFE!

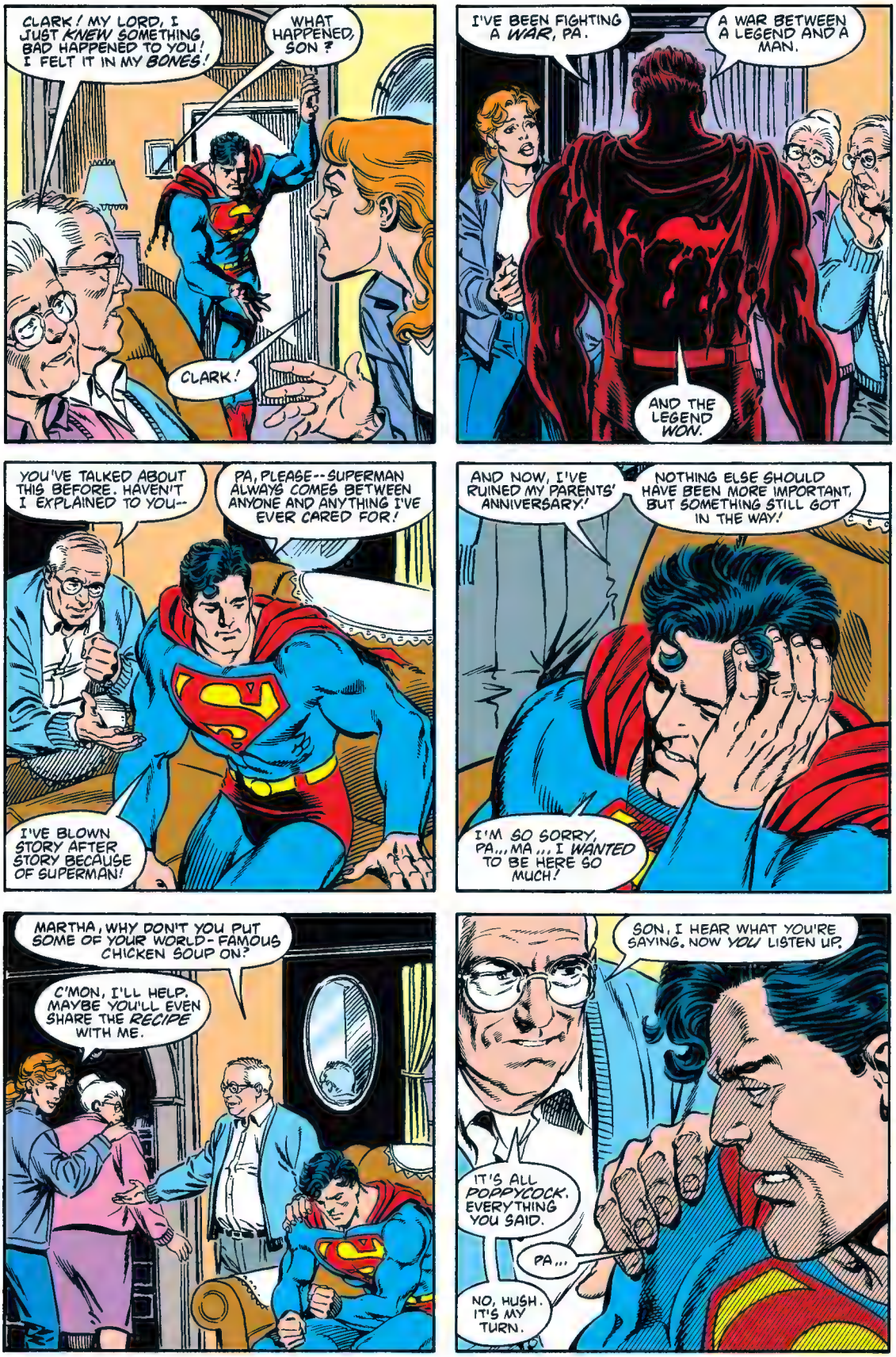
AND SOON...
I STOPPED THE FIVE'S PLANS, AND THOUGHT I RESCUED EVERYONE WITHOUT MUCH PROBLEM--
--SO WHY DO I STILL FEEL LOUSY?
I GUESS I'VE FINALLY PROVEN TO MYSELF THAT I CAN'T BE TWO PEOPLE AT ONCE...

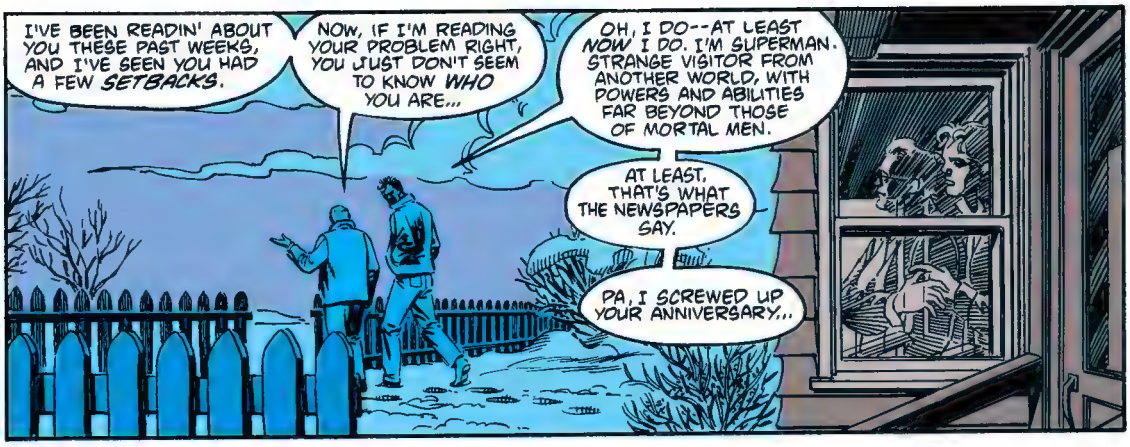

...AND, UNFORTUNATELY, THE CLARK SIDE OF ME LOST AGAIN!
MORE AND MORE, I FEEL LIKE I'M LEAVING MY HUMANITY BEHIND. AND I CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN.

TAKE CARE, EBEN. HAVE A SAFE DRIVE HOME.
SORRY T'SEE YER SON DIDN'T SHOW, MARTHA--WOULD'VE BEEN NICE TO SEE HIM AGIN.
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, YOU TWO. KEEP IT UP AN' YOU'LL PASS ME AN' MARY. FIFTY-THREE FER US, NEXT AUGUST.

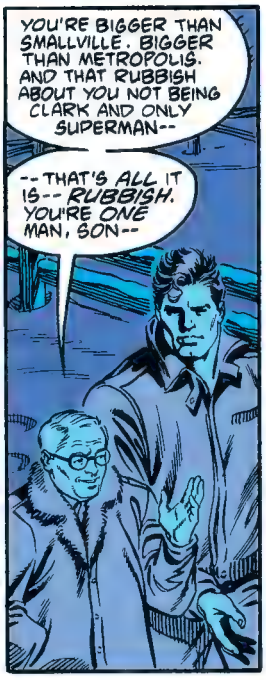
IT'S OVER. HE NEVER SHOWED UP.
NO TELLING WHERE HE IS. HE'S ALWAYS NEEDED SOMEWHERE.
THAT'S WHAT I KEEP TELLIN' MA, BUT YOU KNOW HOW SHE TENDS T'WORRY SOME.

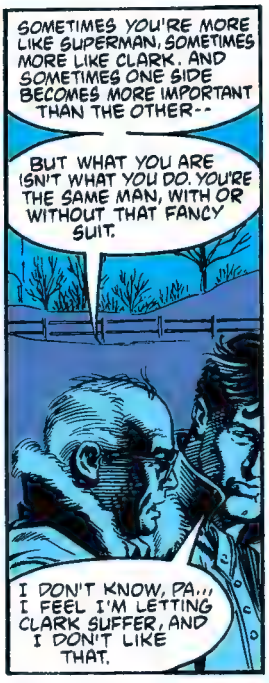

SORRY I HAVEN'T MADE IT ANY EASIER FOR HER--DAD.
SON?
IS THAT CLARK'S VOICE I--


CLARK! MY LORD, I JUST KNEW SOMETHING BAD HAPPENED TO YOU! I FELT IT IN MY BONES!
WHAT HAPPENED, SON?
CLARK!
I'VE BEEN FIGHTING A WAR, PA.
A WAR BETWEEN A LEGEND AND A MAN.
AND THE LEGEND WON.
YOU'VE TALKED ABOUT THIS BEFORE. HAVEN'T I EXPLAINED TO YOU--
PA, PLEASE--SUPERMAN ALWAYS COMES BETWEEN ANYONE AND ANYTHING I'VE EVER CARED FOR!
I'VE BLOWN STORY AFTER STORY BECAUSE OF SUPERMAN!
AND NOW, I'VE RUINED MY PARENTS' ANNIVERSARY!
NOTHING ELSE SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE IMPORTANT, BUT SOMETHING STILL GOT IN THE WAY!
I'M SO SORRY, PA... MA... I WANTED TO BE HERE SO MUCH!
MARTHA, WHY DON'T YOU PUT SOME OF YOUR WORLD-FAMOUS CHICKEN SOUP ON?
C'MON, I'LL HELP. MAYBE YOU'LL EVEN SHARE THE RECIPE WITH ME.
SON, I HEAR WHAT YOU'RE SAYING. NOW YOU LISTEN UP.
IT'S ALL POPPYCOCK. EVERYTHING YOU SAID.
PA...
NO, HUSH. IT'S MY TURN.

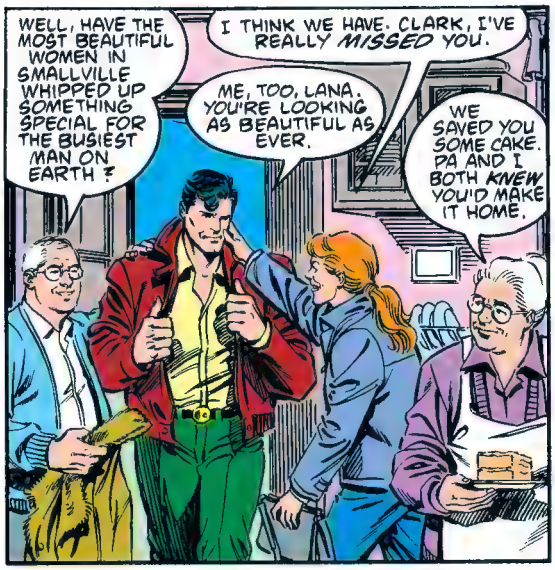

I'VE BEEN READIN' ABOUT YOU THESE PAST WEEKS, AND I'VE SEEN YOU HAD A FEW SETBACKS.
NOW, IF I'M READING YOUR PROBLEM RIGHT, YOU JUST DON'T SEEM TO KNOW WHO YOU ARE...
OH, I DO--AT LEAST NOW I DO. I'M SUPERMAN. STRANGE VISITOR FROM ANOTHER WORLD, WITH POWERS AND ABILITIES FAR BEYOND THOSE OF MORTAL MEN.
AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT THE NEWSPAPERS SAY.
PA, I SCREWED UP YOUR ANNIVERSARY...

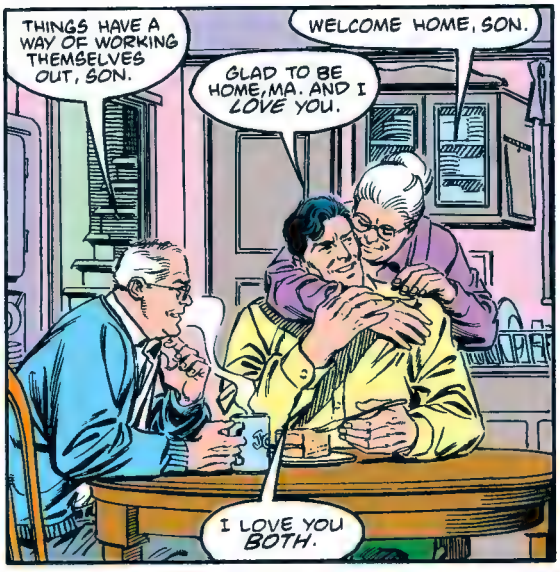
YOU DID, DID YOU? AND HERE I THOUGHT ME AND MA HAD A WONDERFUL TIME.
LISTEN, SON, PARTIES COME AND GO, BUT YOU-- YOU'VE GOT IMPORTANT THINGS THAT HAVE TO GET DONE.


YOU'RE BIGGER THAN SMALLVILLE. BIGGER THAN METROPOLIS. AND THAT RUBBISH ABOUT YOU NOT BEING CLARK AND ONLY SUPERMAN--
--THAT'S ALL IT IS-- RUBBISH. YOU'RE ONE MAN, SON--


SOMETIMES YOU'RE MORE LIKE SUPERMAN, SOMETIMES MORE LIKE CLARK. AND SOMETIMES ONE SIDE BECOMES MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE OTHER--
BUT WHAT YOU ARE ISN'T WHAT YOU DO. YOU'RE THE SAME MAN, WITH OR WITHOUT THAT FANCY SUIT.
I DON'T KNOW, PA... I FEEL I'M LETTING CLARK SUFFER, AND I DON'T LIKE THAT.

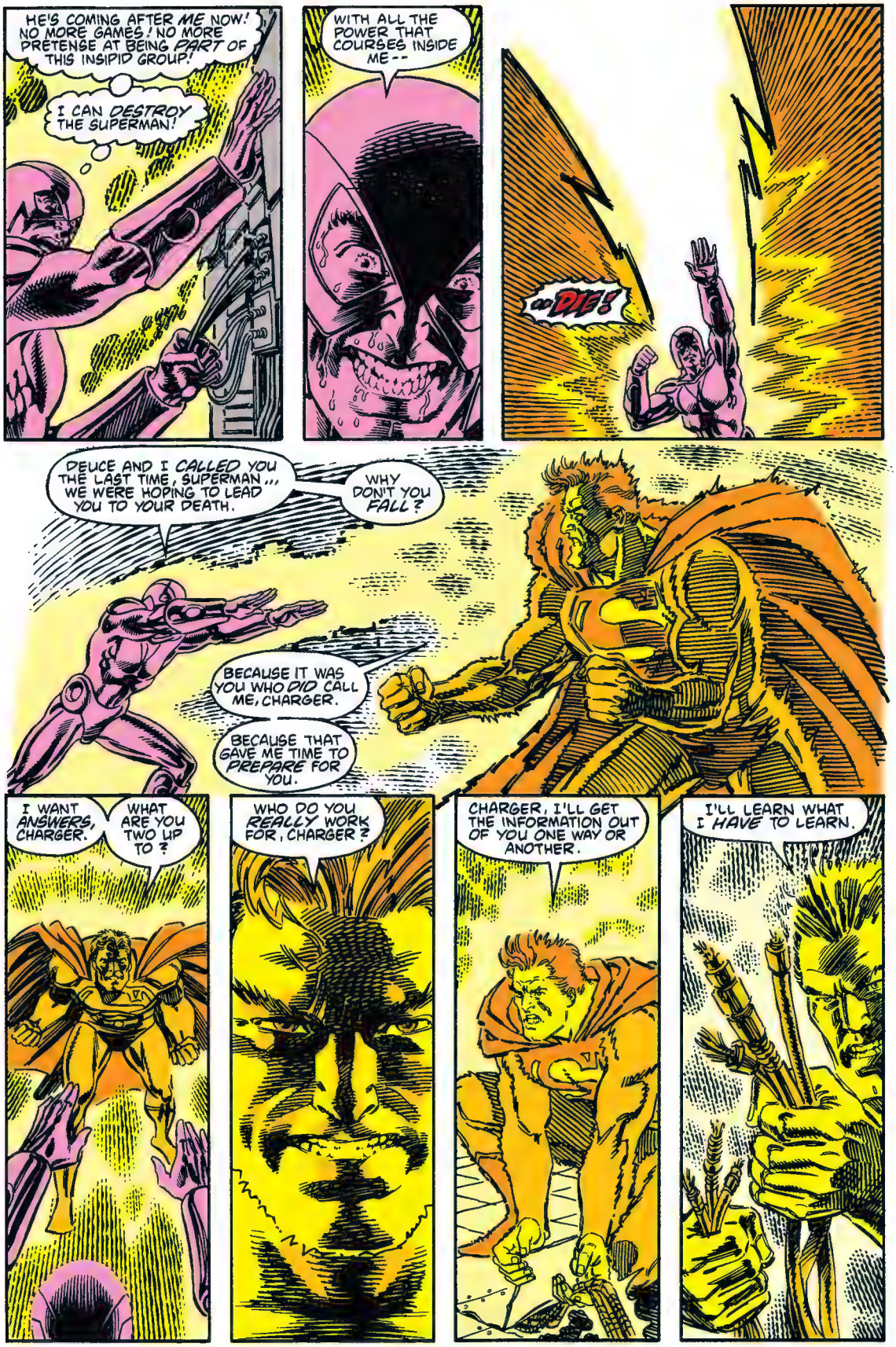
YOU CAN'T TAKE ON THE WHOLE WORLD'S PROBLEMS, CLARK. NOT EVEN IF YOU WANT TO. MAYBE ESPECIALLY BECAUSE YOU WANT TO.
DO THE BEST YOU CAN, BUT REMEMBER, YOU'RE ONLY ONE MAN.
AND YOU'RE A GOOD MAN. YOU ARE DOING YOUR BEST. DON'T EVER FORGET THAT.


WELL, HAVE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMEN IN SMALLVILLE WHIPPED UP SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR THE BUSIEST MAN ON EARTH?
I THINK WE HAVE. CLARK, I'VE REALLY MISSED YOU.
ME, TOO, LANA. YOU'RE LOOKING AS BEAUTIFUL AS EVER.
WE SAVED YOU SOME CAKE. PA AND I BOTH KNEW YOU'D MAKE IT HOME.


THINGS HAVE A WAY OF WORKING THEMSELVES OUT, SON.
WELCOME HOME, SON.
GLAD TO BE HOME, MA. AND I LOVE YOU.
I LOVE YOU BOTH.

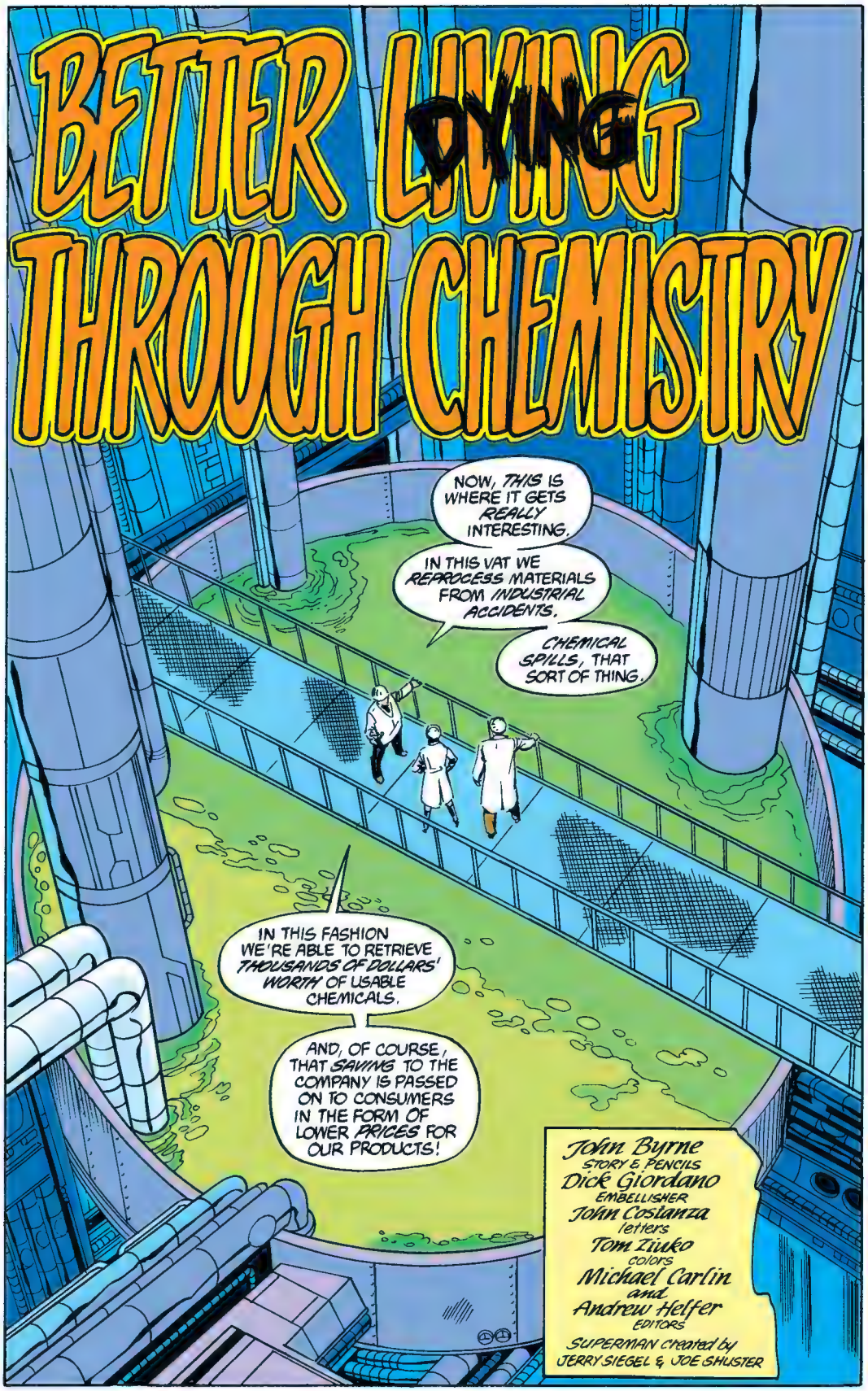
THE NEXT DAY...
WELL, WELL, LOOKS LIKE THAT PHONE CALL WAS RIGHT!
IF IT ISN'T THE FEARSOME FIVE!
THAT NUMBER--FIVE--DOES IT REPRESENT THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN YOUR GROUP? OR YOUR COLLECTIVE IQS?
SUPERMAN?
LAST TIME WE MET I WAS DISTRACTED. THIS TIME I'M READY!
LAST TIME I UNDERESTIMATED YOU, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, I UNDERESTIMATED MYSELF.
THIS TIME I KNOW WHERE WE BOTH STAND.
I'M GIVING YOU A CHANCE TO SURRENDER, BUT I HAVE A FEELING NONE OF YOU IS BRIGHT ENOUGH TO ACCEPT A SIMPLE OFFER LIKE THAT.
LAST TIME MAMMOTH HURT YOU!
NOW MAMMOTH WILL DESTROY YOU!
SOMEHOW I HAD A HUNCH YOU'D SAY THAT.
MAMMOTH IS STRONGER THAN YOU, SUPERMAN.
MAMMOTH IS STRONGER THAN ANYONE!
ONLY YOUR BREATH!
I'M NOT HERE TO PLAY GAMES!
AND I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU!
BUT IF YOU HAVE TO BE FORCED INTO GIVING UP--I'LL DO IT!
UNNNHHHH

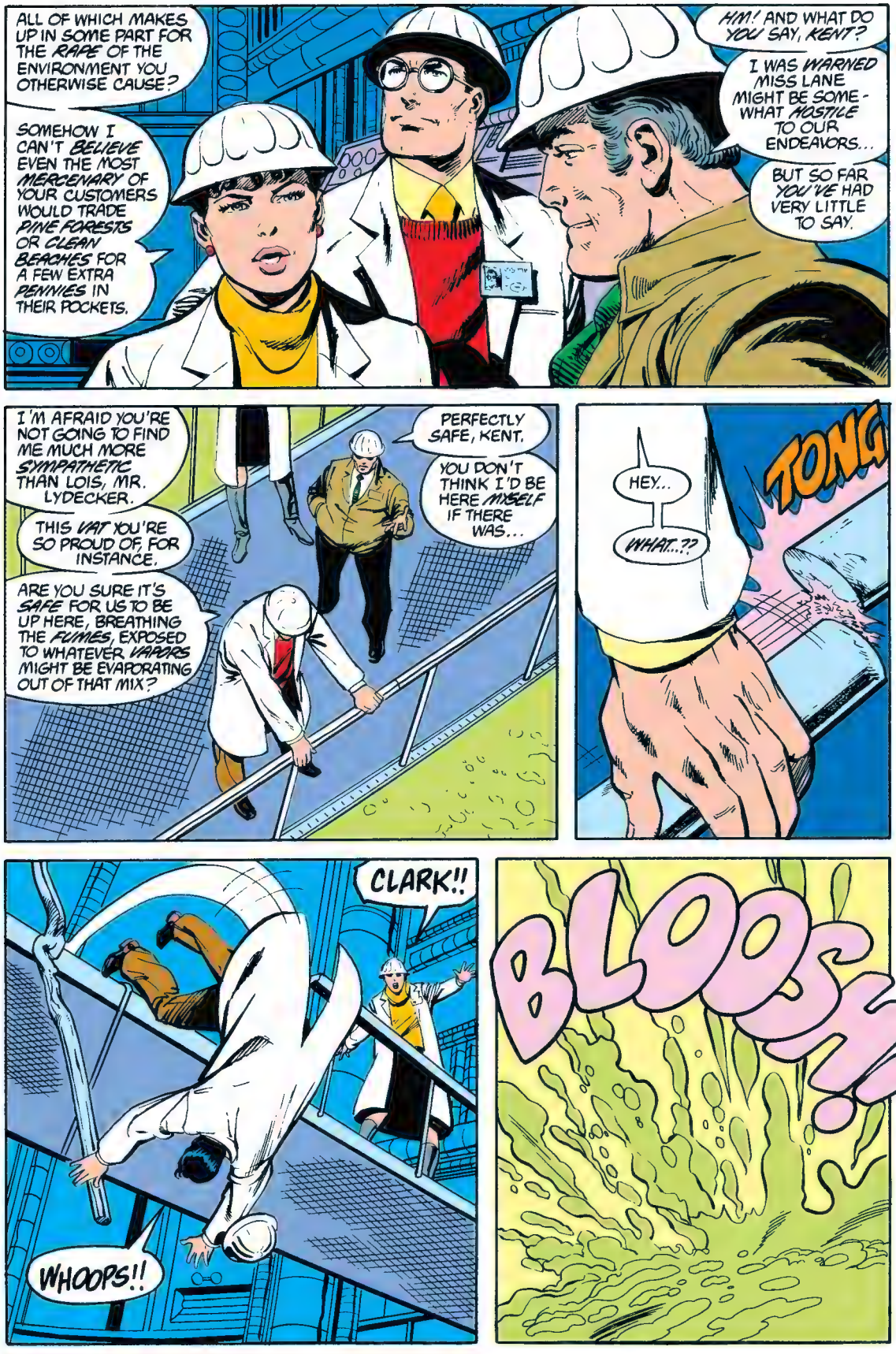
WHY DON'T YOU STAY PUT AND OUT OF TROUBLE?
THAT WAY I DON'T HAVE TO REALLY HURT YOU!
QUICKSAND?
THAT TRICK-- AGAIN?
SHIMMER, DIDN'T YOU LEARN LAST TIME THIS LAME STUNT DOESN'T WORK?
QUICKSAND IS ONLY THE BEGINNING! I WILL--
YOU'LL DO NOTHING, SHIMMER!
EXCEPT PERHAPS FEEL THE HEAT!
HEAT RAYS! FROM HIS EYES!?
HOLD ON, SHIMMER. I'LL TURN THE AIR AROUND HIM TO CARBON MONOXIDE! EVEN SUPERMAN HAS TO BREATHE!
SORRY, GIZ, BUT THIS TIME I'M READY TO GIVE YOU A TASTE OF YOUR OWN MEDICINE!
I RIPPED THIS LITTLE GADGET OFF OF THAT DOOHICKEY I DROPPED ON MAMMOTH, GIZMO!
AND I USED TO BE PRETTY GOOD WITH THESE THINGS WHEN I WAS A KID.
OH, NO-- HANG ON, SHIMMER.
SP.KOK!
SP.KOK!
WHAT HAPPENED?
DON'T ASK. JUST HOLD YOUR BREATH.
AND TRY YOUR HARDEST TO TURN THE QUICKSAND INTO SOMETHING ELSE--
BEFORE WE'RE BOTH SUCKED UP!!

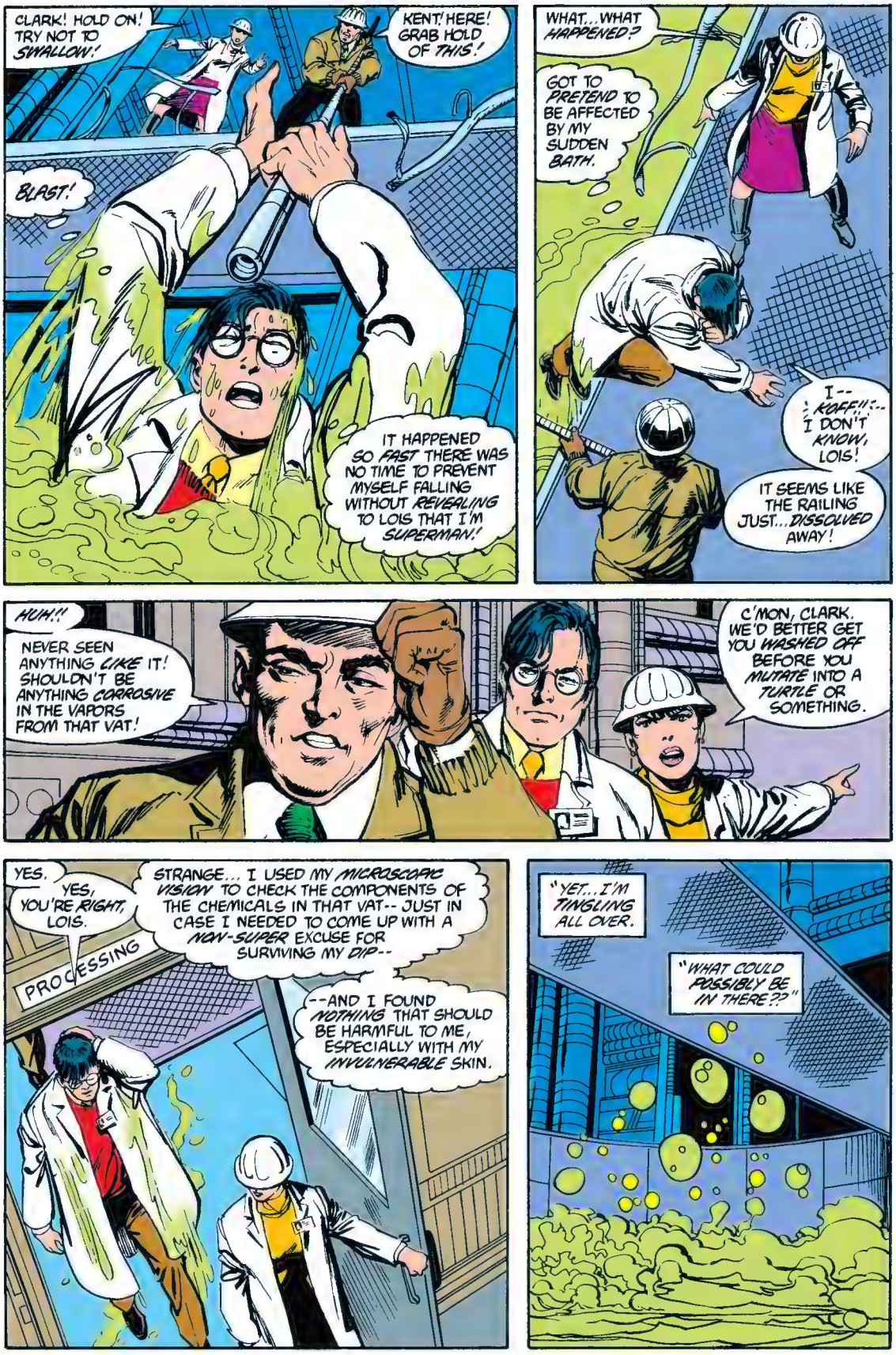

HE'S COMING AFTER ME NOW! NO MORE GAMES! NO MORE PRETENSE AT BEING PART OF THIS INSIPID GROUP!
I CAN DESTROY THE SUPERMAN!
WITH ALL THE POWER THAT COURSES INSIDE ME--
DIE!
DEUCE AND I CALLED YOU THE LAST TIME, SUPERMAN... WE WERE HOPING TO LEAD YOU TO YOUR DEATH.
WHY DON'T YOU FALL?
BECAUSE IT WAS YOU WHO DID CALL ME, CHARGER.
BECAUSE THAT GAVE ME TIME TO PREPARE FOR YOU.
I WANT ANSWERS, CHARGER.
WHAT ARE YOU TWO UP TO?
WHO DO YOU REALLY WORK FOR, CHARGER?
CHARGER, I'LL GET THE INFORMATION OUT OF YOU ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.
I'LL LEARN WHAT I HAVE TO LEARN.

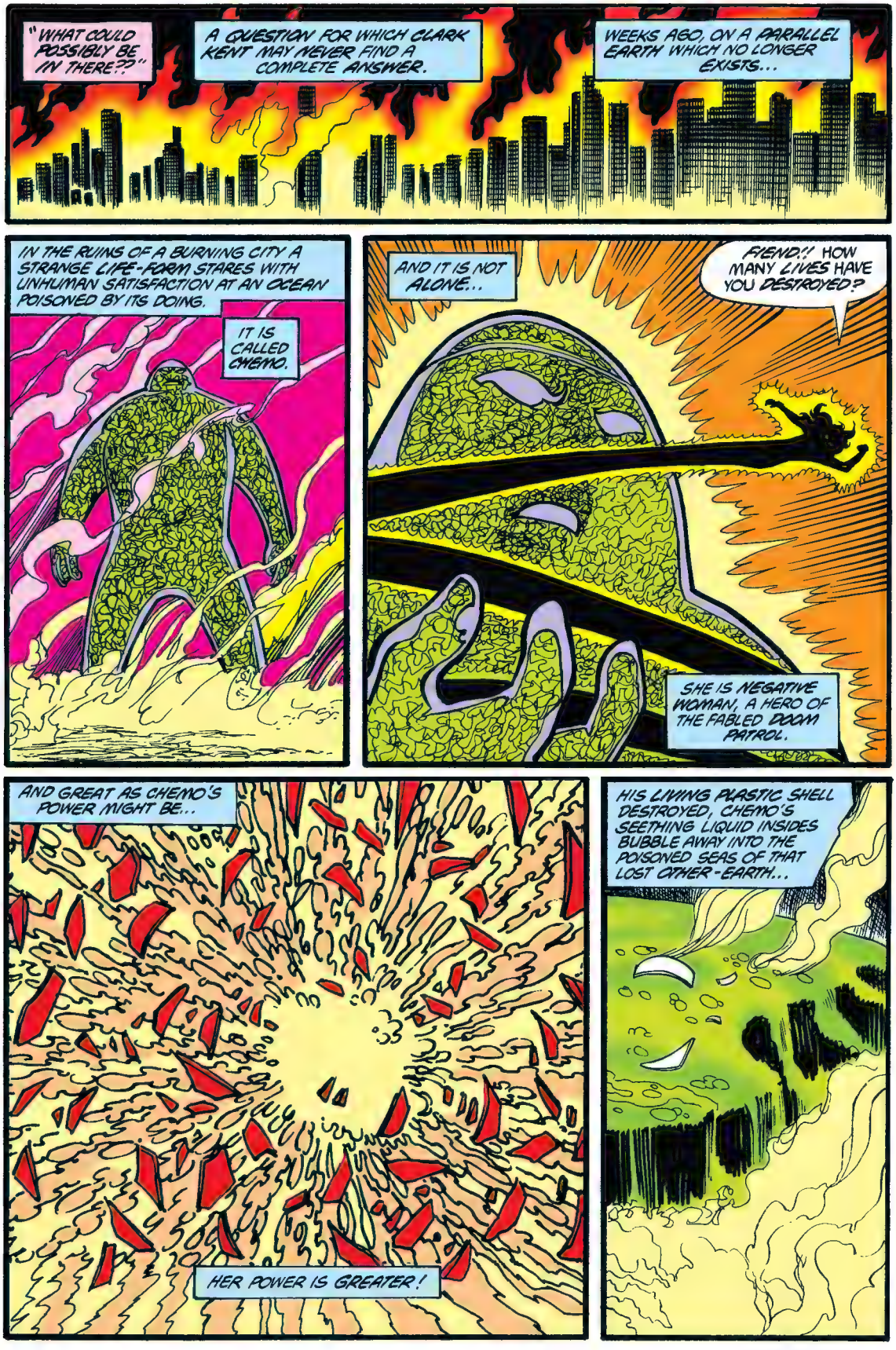
I'M OVERLOADING HIM-- THE FEEDBACK SHOULD BE STRONG ENOUGH TO--
AND IF NOT NOW-- WHEN YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS ARE BEHIND BARS!
SONUVAGUN... IT WORKED.
NOW ONLY DEUCE REMAINS.
NOT THAT OLD TRICK AGAIN?
NO... NOT EVEN REMOTELY THE SAME, SUPERMAN.
MY POWER IS GREATER THAN YOU IMAGINED--
WHATEVER I THINK OF-- BECOMES REALITY!
UNTIL NOW I'VE HELD BACK... LET THE OTHERS TRY TO DESTROY YOU.
BUT NOW THERE IS NO REASON TO STAND BACK AND WAIT.
FOR YOUR CRIMES AGAINST MY PEOPLE--YOU ARE SENTENCED TO DEATH!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHAT CRIMES? WHAT PEOPLE?

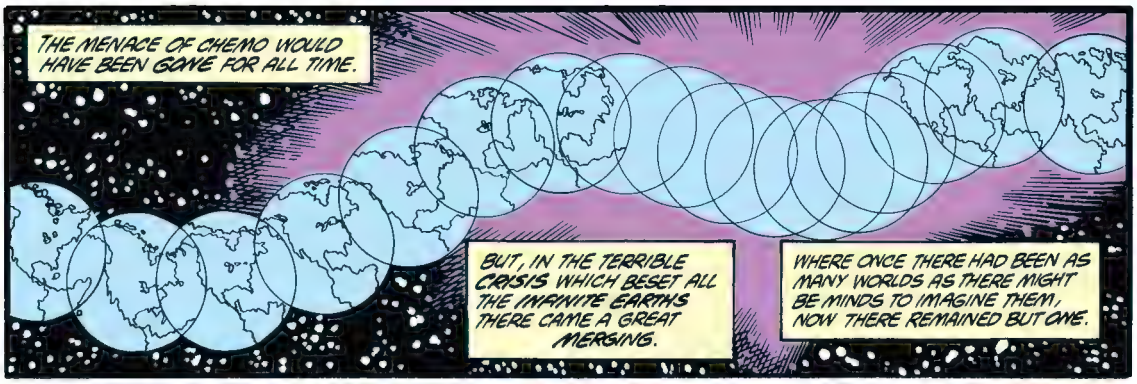
PRESSURE'S BUILDING... INSIDE MY HEAD ! BUT IT'S MY CHEST SHE'S PRESSING AGAINST--
DOESN'T MAKE SENSE...
UNLESS--
DEUCE SAID HER POWER WAS TO REACH INSIDE MY MIND.
WHICH MEANS THIS ISN'T REAL.
HAVE TO FIGHT AGAINST MY OWN THOUGHTS--
--FIGHTING AGAINST THE DEMONS INSIDE ME... BUT I CAN... I CAN FIGHT BACK...
AAAAAGGGHHH
SHE WAS USING TOO MUCH POWER-- AND IT ALL HIT HER AT ONCE.
AS FOR THE REST OF HER FRIENDS-- I SEE THE QUICKSAND REVERTED TO CONCRETE.
AND THAT MAKES MY JOB EVEN SIMPLER.
HMMM, JUST THOUGHT OF IT, SUPERMAN MAY HAVE WON THE DAY, BUT CLARK CAN HAVE THE FINAL GLORY.
PA WAS RIGHT.
SOME DAYS SUPERMAN WINS OUT. SOME DAYS IT'S CLARK.
JON
AND SOME DAYS-- THEY BOTH WIN.
DAILY PLANET
SUPERMAN DEFEATS FEARSOME FIVE
TWO NEW MEMBERS ESCAPE AUTHORITIES
EXCLUSIVE BY CLARK KENT

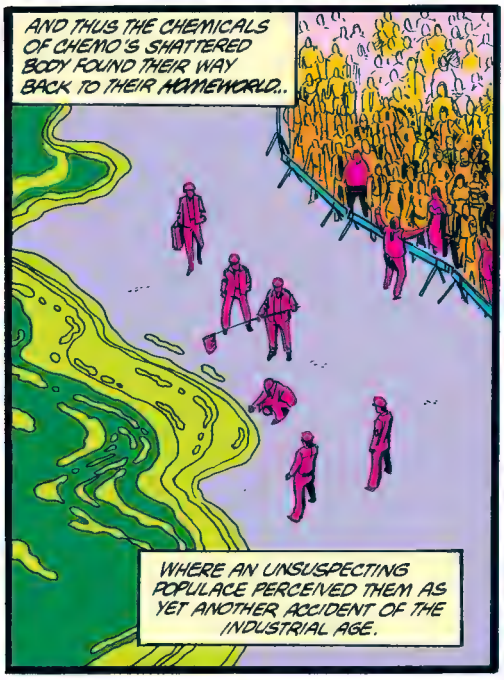

BETTER LIVING THROUGH CHEMISTRY
DYING
NOW, THIS IS WHERE IT GETS REALLY INTERESTING.
IN THIS VAT WE REPROCESS MATERIALS FROM INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.
CHEMICAL SPILLS, THAT SORT OF THING.
IN THIS FASHION WE'RE ABLE TO RETRIEVE THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS' WORTH OF USABLE CHEMICALS.
AND, OF COURSE, THAT SAVING TO THE COMPANY IS PASSED ON TO CONSUMERS IN THE FORM OF LOWER PRICES FOR OUR PRODUCTS!
John Byrne
STORY & PENCILS
Dick Giordano
EMBELLISHER
John Costanza
letters
Tom Ziuko
colors
Michael Carlin
and
Andrew Helfer
EDITORS
SUPERMAN created by
JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

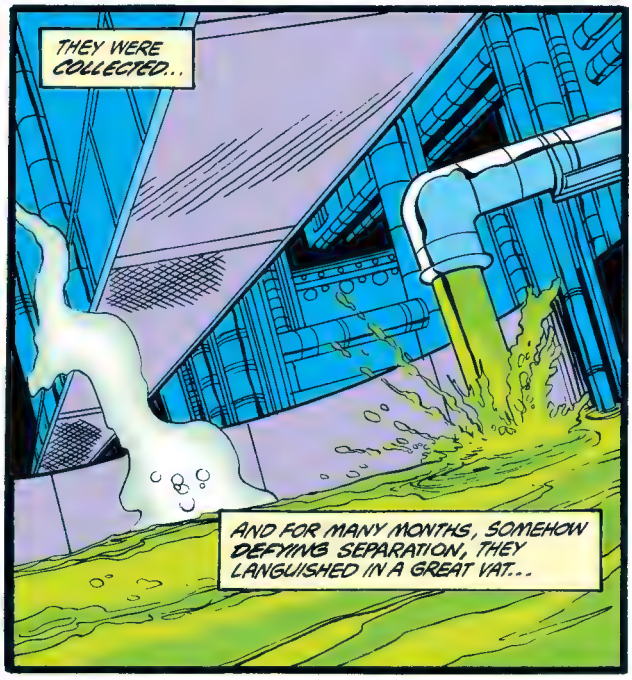

ALL OF WHICH MAKES UP IN SOME PART FOR THE RAPE OF THE ENVIRONMENT YOU OTHERWISE CAUSE?
SOMEHOW I CAN'T BELIEVE EVEN THE MOST MERCENARY OF YOUR CUSTOMERS WOULD TRADE PINE FORESTS OR CLEAN BEACHES FOR A FEW EXTRA PENNIES IN THEIR POCKETS.
HM! AND WHAT DO YOU SAY, KENT?
I WAS WARNED MISS LANE MIGHT BE SOMEWHAT HOSTILE TO OUR ENDEAVORS...
BUT SO FAR YOU'VE HAD VERY LITTLE TO SAY.
I'M AFRAID YOU'RE NOT GOING TO FIND ME MUCH MORE SYMPATHETIC THAN LOIS, MR. LYDECKER.
THIS VAT YOU'RE SO PROUD OF, FOR INSTANCE.
ARE YOU SURE IT'S SAFE FOR US TO BE UP HERE, BREATHING THE FUMES, EXPOSED TO WHATEVER VAPORS MIGHT BE EVAPORATING OUT OF THAT MIX?
PERFECTLY SAFE, KENT.
YOU DON'T THINK I'D BE HERE MYSELF IF THERE WAS...
HEY...
WHAT...??
TONG
CLARK!!
WHOOPS!!
BLOOSH!!


CLARK! HOLD ON! TRY NOT TO SWALLOW!
KENT! HERE! GRAB HOLD OF THIS!
BLAST!
IT HAPPENED SO FAST THERE WAS NO TIME TO PREVENT MYSELF FALLING WITHOUT REVEALING TO LOIS THAT I'M SUPERMAN!
WHAT... WHAT HAPPENED?
GOT TO PRETEND TO BE AFFECTED BY MY SUDDEN BATH.
I-- KOFF!!-- I DON'T KNOW, LOIS!
IT SEEMS LIKE THE RAILING JUST... DISSOLVED AWAY!
HUH!!
NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT! SHOULDN'T BE ANYTHING CORROSIVE IN THE VAPORS FROM THAT VAT!
C'MON, CLARK. WE'D BETTER GET YOU WASHED OFF BEFORE YOU MUTATE INTO A TURTLE OR SOMETHING.
YES.
YES, YOU'RE RIGHT, LOIS.
PROCESSING
STRANGE... I USED MY MICROSCOPIC VISION TO CHECK THE COMPONENTS OF THE CHEMICALS IN THAT VAT-- JUST IN CASE I NEEDED TO COME UP WITH A NON-SUPER EXCUSE FOR SURVIVING MY DIP--
--AND I FOUND NOTHING THAT SHOULD BE HARMFUL TO ME, ESPECIALLY WITH MY INVULNERABLE SKIN.
"YET... I'M TINGLING ALL OVER.
"WHAT COULD POSSIBLY BE IN THERE??"

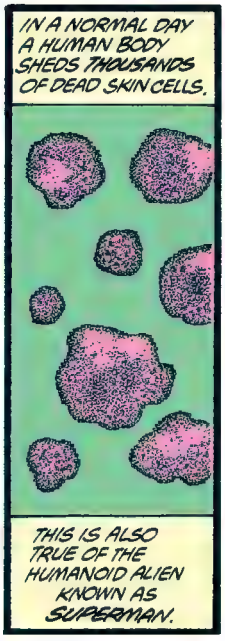

"WHAT COULD POSSIBLY BE IN THERE??"
A QUESTION FOR WHICH CLARK KENT MAY NEVER FIND A COMPLETE ANSWER.
WEEKS AGO, ON A PARALLEL EARTH WHICH NO LONGER EXISTS...
IN THE RUINS OF A BURNING CITY A STRANGE LIFE-FORM STARES WITH UNHUMAN SATISFACTION AT AN OCEAN POISONED BY ITS DOING.
IT IS CALLED CHEMO.
AND IT IS NOT ALONE...
FIEND!! HOW MANY LIVES HAVE YOU DESTROYED?
SHE IS NEGATIVE WOMAN, A HERO OF THE FABLED DOOM PATROL.
AND GREAT AS CHEMO'S POWER MIGHT BE...
HER POWER IS GREATER!
HIS LIVING PLASTIC SHELL DESTROYED, CHEMO'S SEETHING LIQUID INSIDES BUBBLE AWAY INTO THE POISONED SEAS OF THAT LOST OTHER-EARTH...

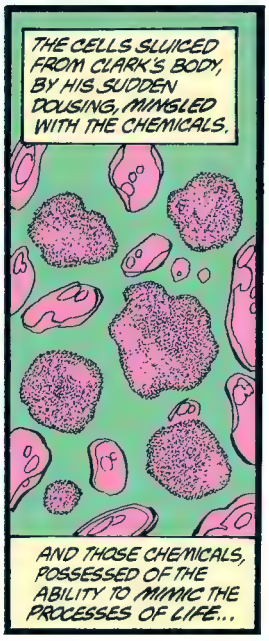

THE MENACE OF CHEMO WOULD HAVE BEEN GONE FOR ALL TIME.
BUT, IN THE TERRIBLE CRISIS WHICH BESET ALL THE INFINITE EARTHS THERE CAME A GREAT MERGING.
WHERE ONCE THERE HAD BEEN AS MANY WORLDS AS THERE MIGHT BE MINDS TO IMAGINE THEM, NOW THERE REMAINED BUT ONE.

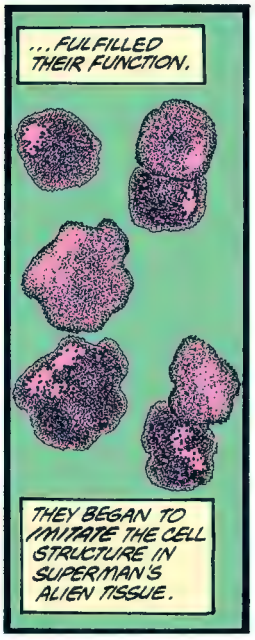

AND THUS THE CHEMICALS OF CHEMO'S SHATTERED BODY FOUND THEIR WAY BACK TO THEIR HOMEWORLD..
WHERE AN UNSUSPECTING POPULACE PERCEIVED THEM AS YET ANOTHER ACCIDENT OF THE INDUSTRIAL AGE.

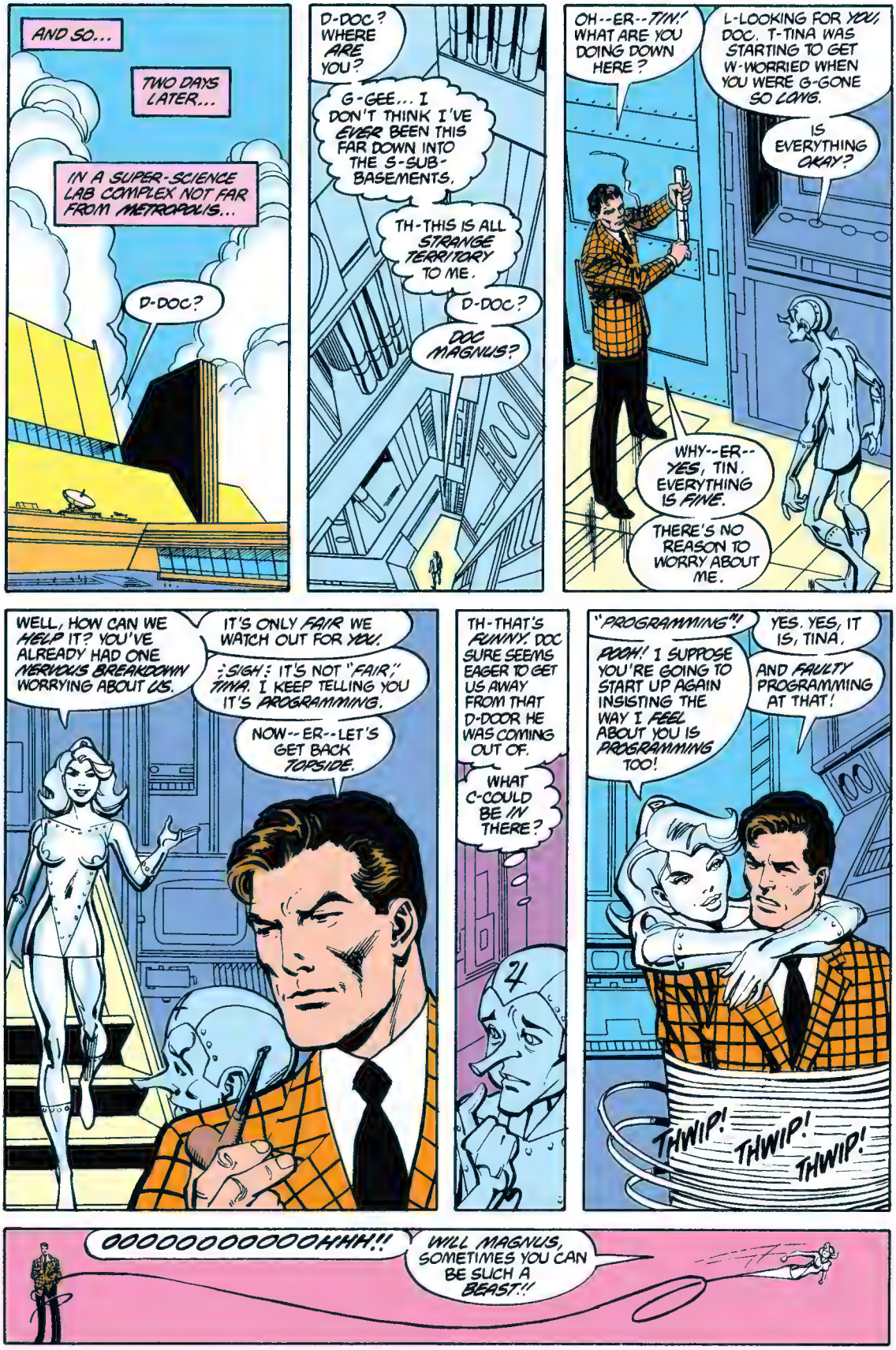

THEY WERE COLLECTED...
AND FOR MANY MONTHS, SOMEHOW DEFYING SEPARATION, THEY LANGUISHED IN A GREAT VAT...

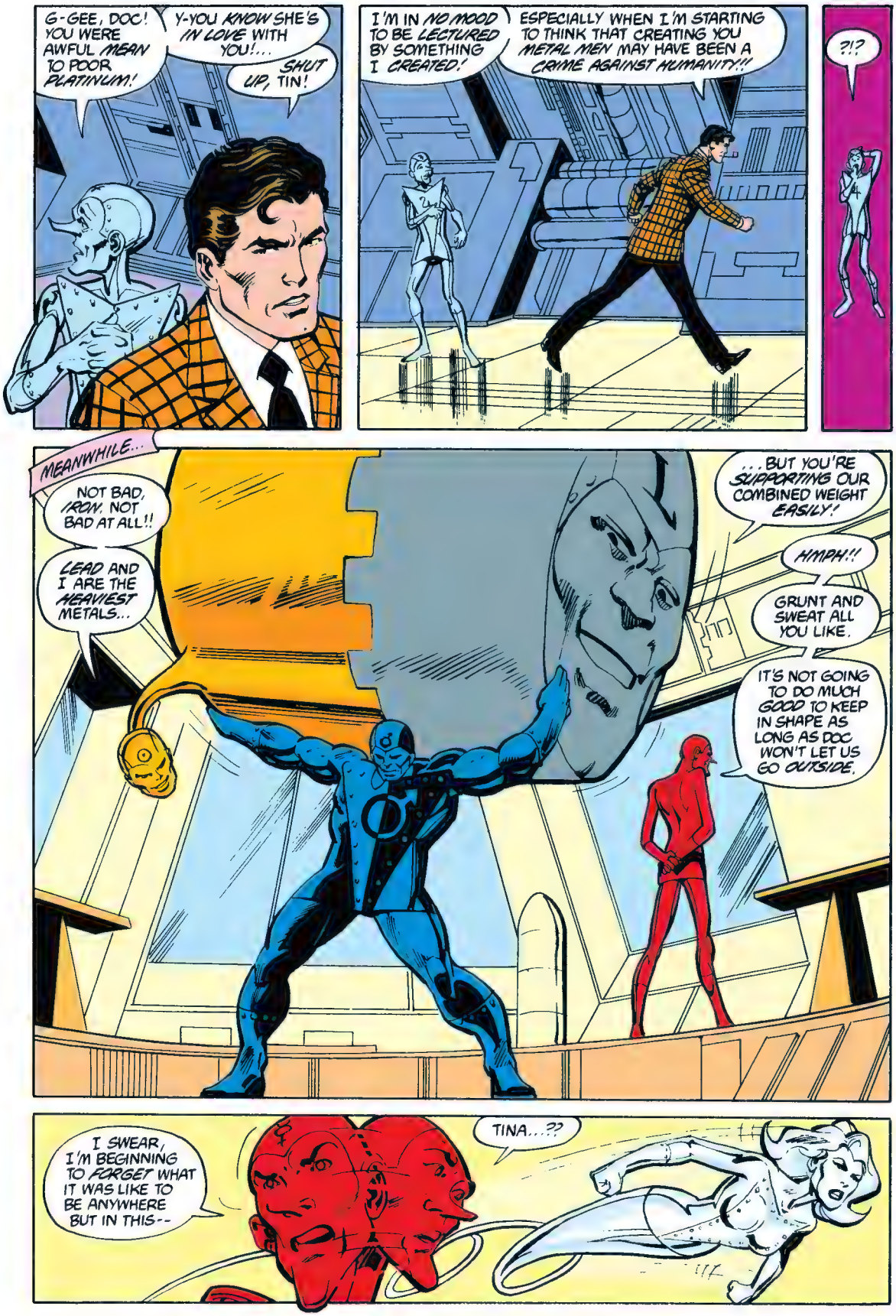
...UNTIL CLARK KENT FOUND HIMSELF IMMERSED IN THEM.
THAT'S WHEN SOMETHING BEGAN TO HAPPEN...

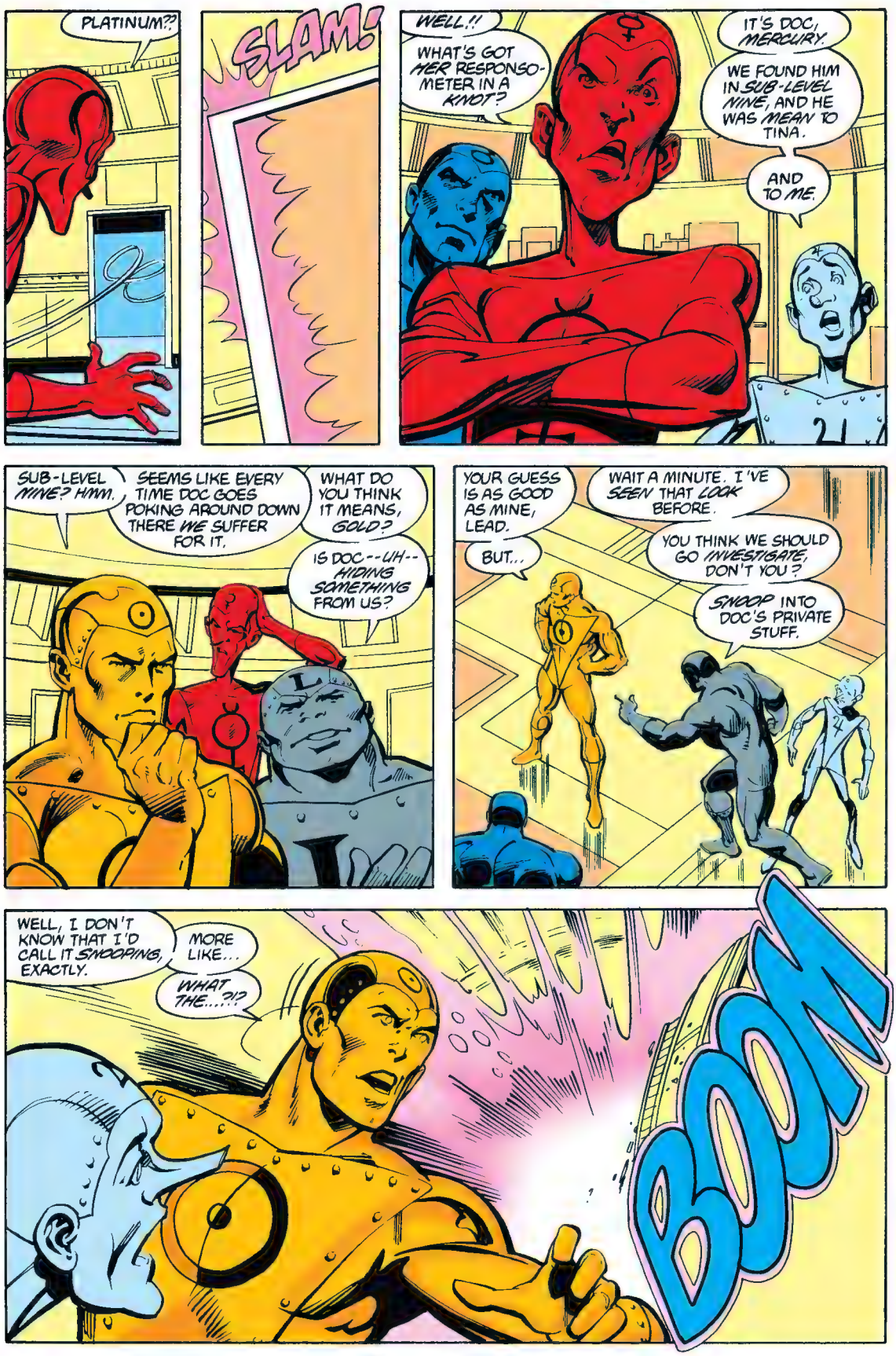

IN A NORMAL DAY A HUMAN BODY SHEDS THOUSANDS OF DEAD SKIN CELLS.
THIS IS ALSO TRUE OF THE HUMANOID ALIEN KNOWN AS SUPERMAN.

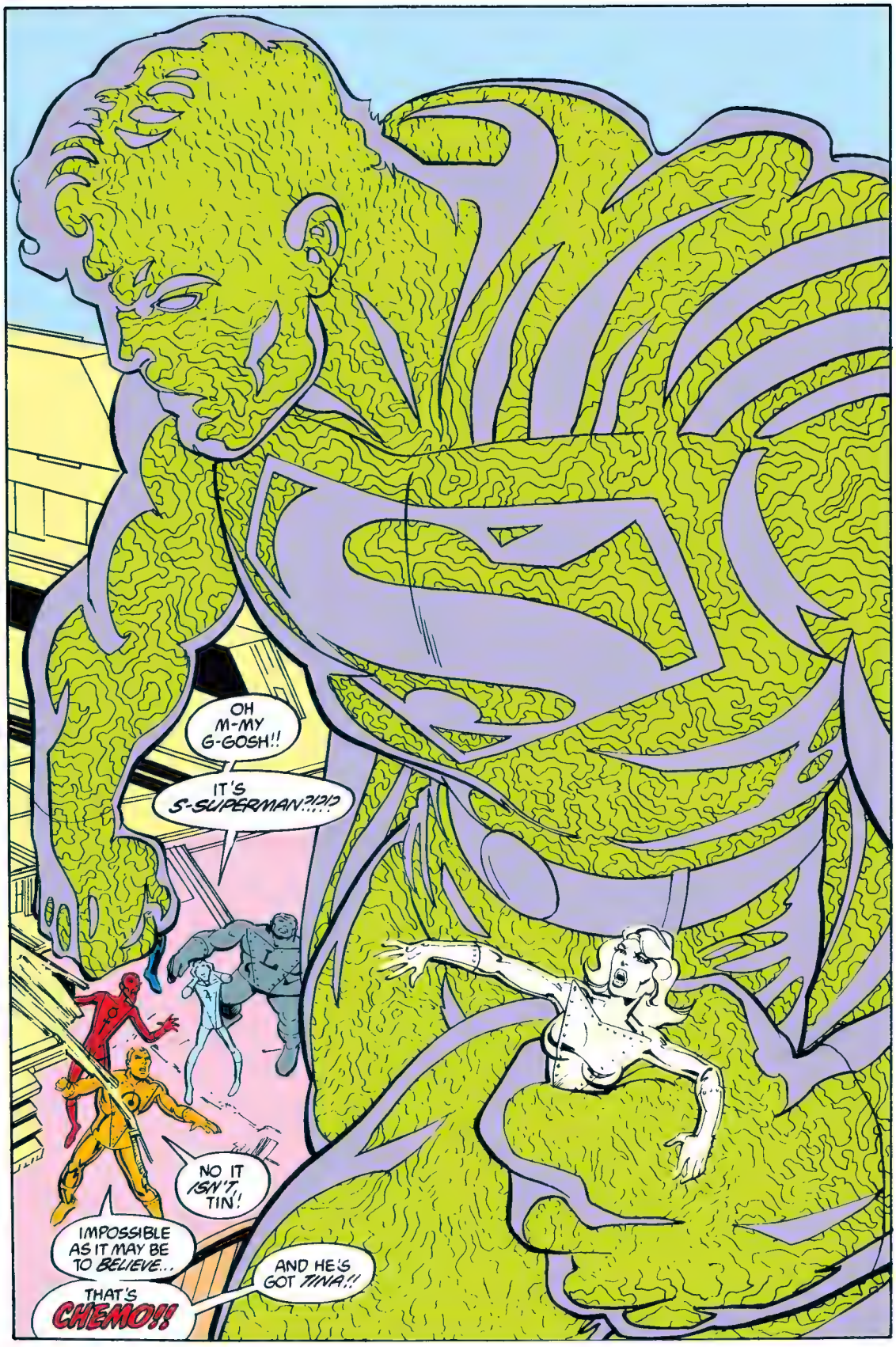

THE CELLS SLUICED FROM CLARK'S BODY, BY HIS SUDDEN DOUSING, MINGLED WITH THE CHEMICALS.
AND THOSE CHEMICALS, POSSESSED OF THE ABILITY TO MIMIC THE PROCESSES OF LIFE...


...FULFILLED THEIR FUNCTION.
THEY BEGAN TO IMITATE THE CELL STRUCTURE IN SUPERMAN'S ALIEN TISSUE.

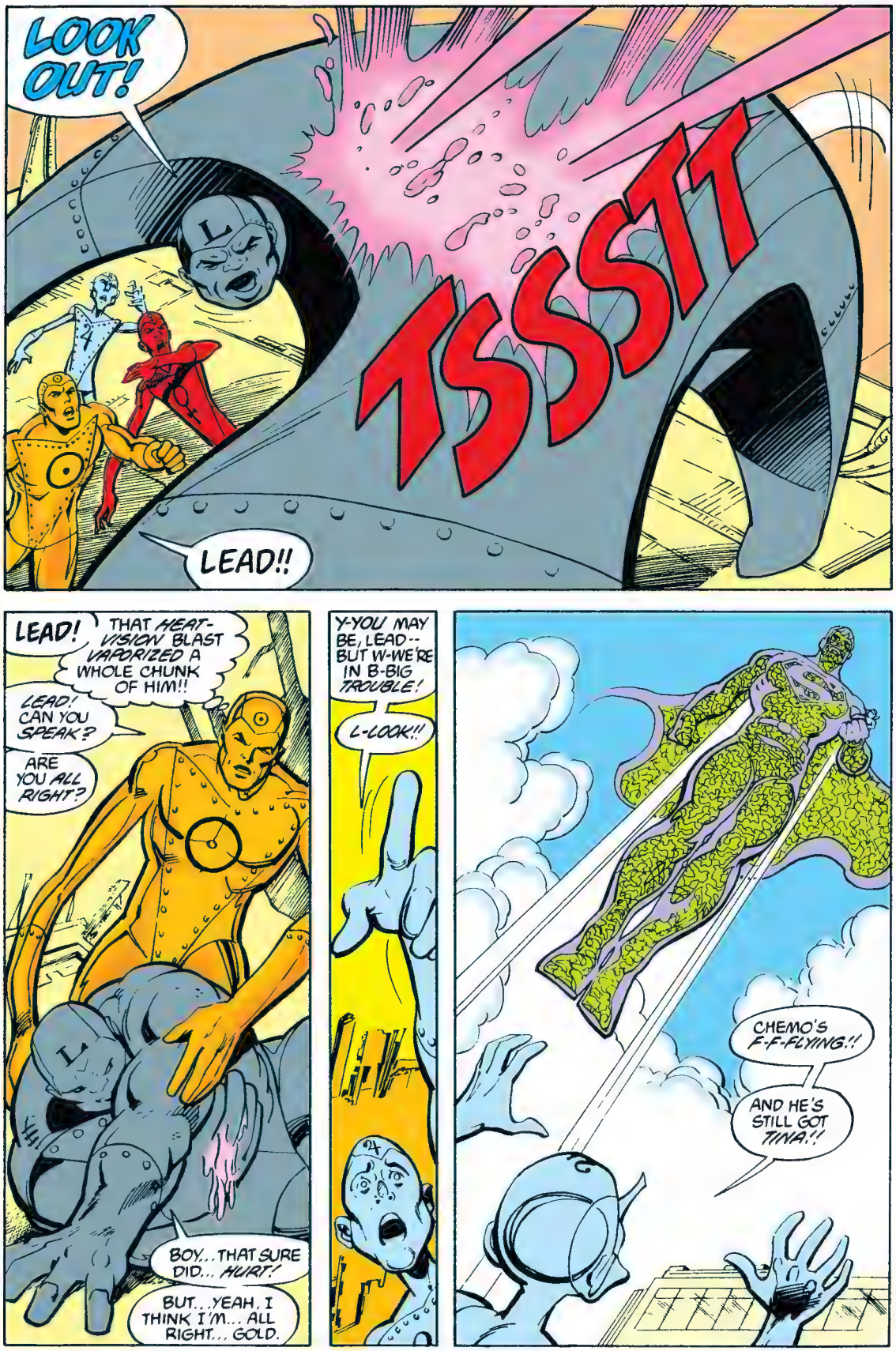

AND SO...
TWO DAYS LATER...
IN A SUPER-SCIENCE LAB COMPLEX NOT FAR FROM METROPOLIS...
D-DOC?
D-DOC? WHERE ARE YOU?
G-GEE... I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER BEEN THIS FAR DOWN INTO THE S-SUB-BASEMENTS.
TH-THIS IS ALL STRANGE TERRITORY TO ME.
D-DOC?
DOC MAGNUS?
OH--ER--TIN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING DOWN HERE?
L-LOOKING FOR YOU, DOC. T-TINA WAS STARTING TO GET W-WORRIED WHEN YOU WERE G-GONE SO LONG.
IS EVERYTHING OKAY?
WHY--ER--YES, TIN. EVERYTHING IS FINE.
THERE'S NO REASON TO WORRY ABOUT ME.
WELL, HOW CAN WE HELP IT? YOU'VE ALREADY HAD ONE NERVOUS BREAKDOWN WORRYING ABOUT US.
IT'S ONLY FAIR WE WATCH OUT FOR YOU.
:SIGH: IT'S NOT "FAIR," TINA. I KEEP TELLING YOU IT'S PROGRAMMING.
NOW--ER--LET'S GET BACK TOPSIDE.
TH-THAT'S FUNNY. DOC SURE SEEMS EAGER TO GET US AWAY FROM THAT D-DOOR HE WAS COMING OUT OF.
WHAT C-COULD BE IN THERE?
"PROGRAMMING"!
POOH! I SUPPOSE YOU'RE GOING TO START UP AGAIN INSISTING THE WAY I FEEL ABOUT YOU IS PROGRAMMING TOO!
YES. YES, IT IS, TINA.
AND FAULTY PROGRAMMING AT THAT!
THWIP!
THWIP!
THWIP!
OOOOOOOOOOHHH!!
WILL MAGNUS, SOMETIMES YOU CAN BE SUCH A BEAST!!

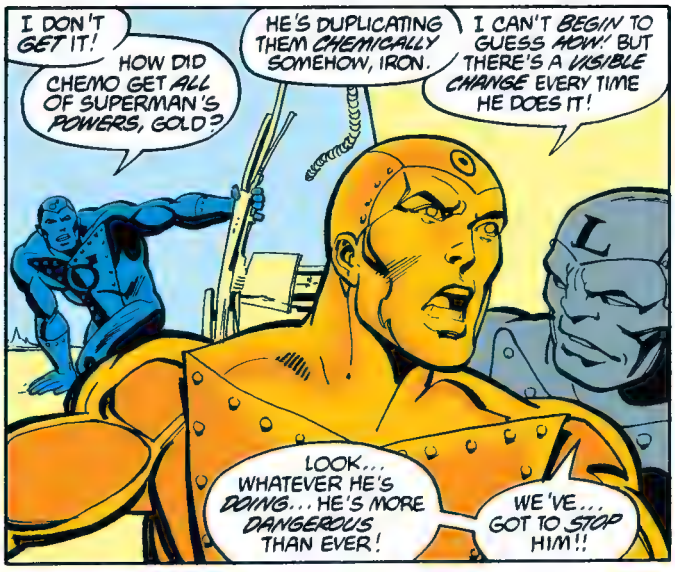

G-GEE, DOC! YOU WERE AWFUL MEAN TO POOR PLATINUM!
Y-YOU KNOW SHE'S IN LOVE WITH YOU!...
SHUT UP, TIN!
I'M IN NO MOOD TO BE LECTURED BY SOMETHING I CREATED!
ESPECIALLY WHEN I'M STARTING TO THINK THAT CREATING YOU METAL MEN MAY HAVE BEEN A CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY!!
?!?
MEANWHILE...
NOT BAD, IRON. NOT BAD AT ALL!!
LEAD AND I ARE THE HEAVIEST METALS...
...BUT YOU'RE SUPPORTING OUR COMBINED WEIGHT EASILY!
HMPH!!
GRUNT AND SWEAT ALL YOU LIKE.
IT'S NOT GOING TO DO MUCH GOOD TO KEEP IN SHAPE AS LONG AS DOC WON'T LET US GO OUTSIDE.
I SWEAR, I'M BEGINNING TO FORGET WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO BE ANYWHERE BUT IN THIS--
TINA...??

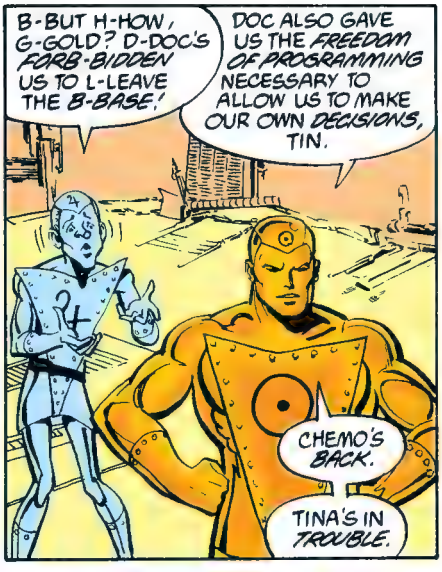

PLATINUM?!
SLAM!
WELL!!
WHAT'S GOT HER RESPONSO-METER IN A KNOT?
IT'S DOC, MERCURY.
WE FOUND HIM IN SUB-LEVEL NINE, AND HE WAS MEAN TO TINA.
AND TO ME.
SUB-LEVEL NINE? HMM.
SEEMS LIKE EVERY TIME DOC GOES POKING AROUND DOWN THERE WE SUFFER FOR IT.
WHAT DO YOU THINK IT MEANS, GOLD?
IS DOC--UH--HIDING SOMETHING FROM US?
YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS MINE, LEAD.
BUT...
WAIT A MINUTE. I'VE SEEN THAT LOOK BEFORE.
YOU THINK WE SHOULD GO INVESTIGATE, DON'T YOU?
SNOOP INTO DOC'S PRIVATE STUFF.
WELL, I DON'T KNOW THAT I'D CALL IT SNOOPING, EXACTLY.
MORE LIKE...
WHAT THE...?!?
BOOM!

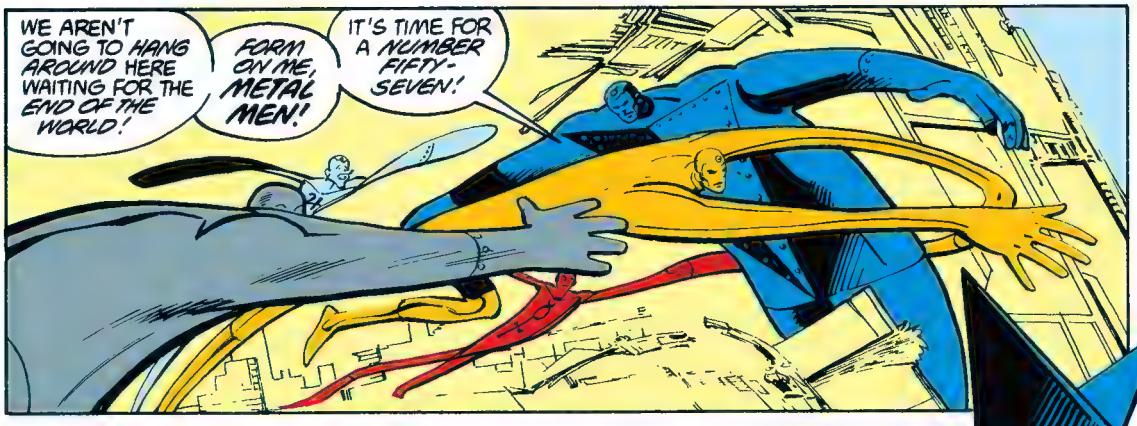

OH M-MY G-GOSH!!
IT'S S-SUPERMAN?!?!?
NO IT ISN'T, TIN!
IMPOSSIBLE AS IT MAY BE TO BELIEVE...
THAT'S CHEMO!!
AND HE'S GOT TINA!!

WELL, THEN, DON'T JUST STAND THERE GAWKING, GANG!
WE'VE BEATEN CHEMO BEFORE!
HEY!
WATCH WHO YOU'RE SHOVING, BLUE BOY!
ALL WE NEED TO DO IS DRILL A HOLE IN THE PLASTIC OF HIS FOOT--
...AND ALL HIS CHEMICALS WILL DRAIN OUT AND...
TONG!
OH N-NO!! IRON C-COULDN'T P-PENETRATE CHEMO'S SURFACE!!
LOOKS LIKE THE BIG CREEP MAY HAVE MORE THAN JUST SUPERMAN'S SHAPE GOING FOR HIM!
LOOK! THERE'S SOME KIND OF CHEMICAL CHANGE HAPPENING!
HISSSSSS
HISSSSSS

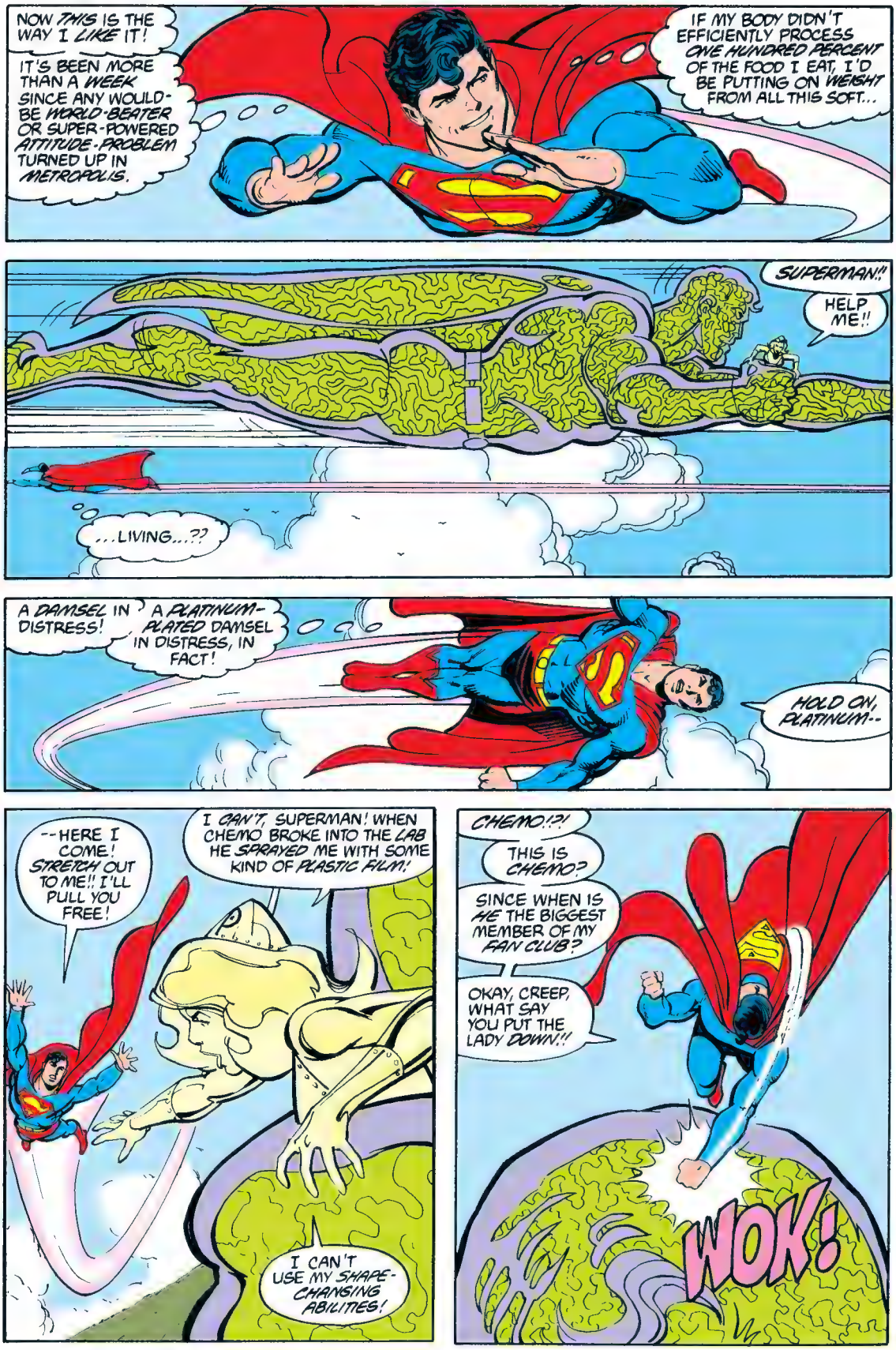

LOOK OUT!
TSSST
LEAD!!
LEAD!
THAT HEAT-VISION BLAST VAPORIZED A WHOLE CHUNK OF HIM!!
LEAD! CAN YOU SPEAK?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
BOY... THAT SURE DID... HURT!
BUT... YEAH, I THINK I'M... ALL RIGHT... GOLD.
Y-YOU MAY BE, LEAD-- BUT W-WE'RE IN B-BIG TROUBLE!
L-LOOK!!
CHEMO'S F-F-FLYING!!
AND HE'S STILL GOT TINA!!

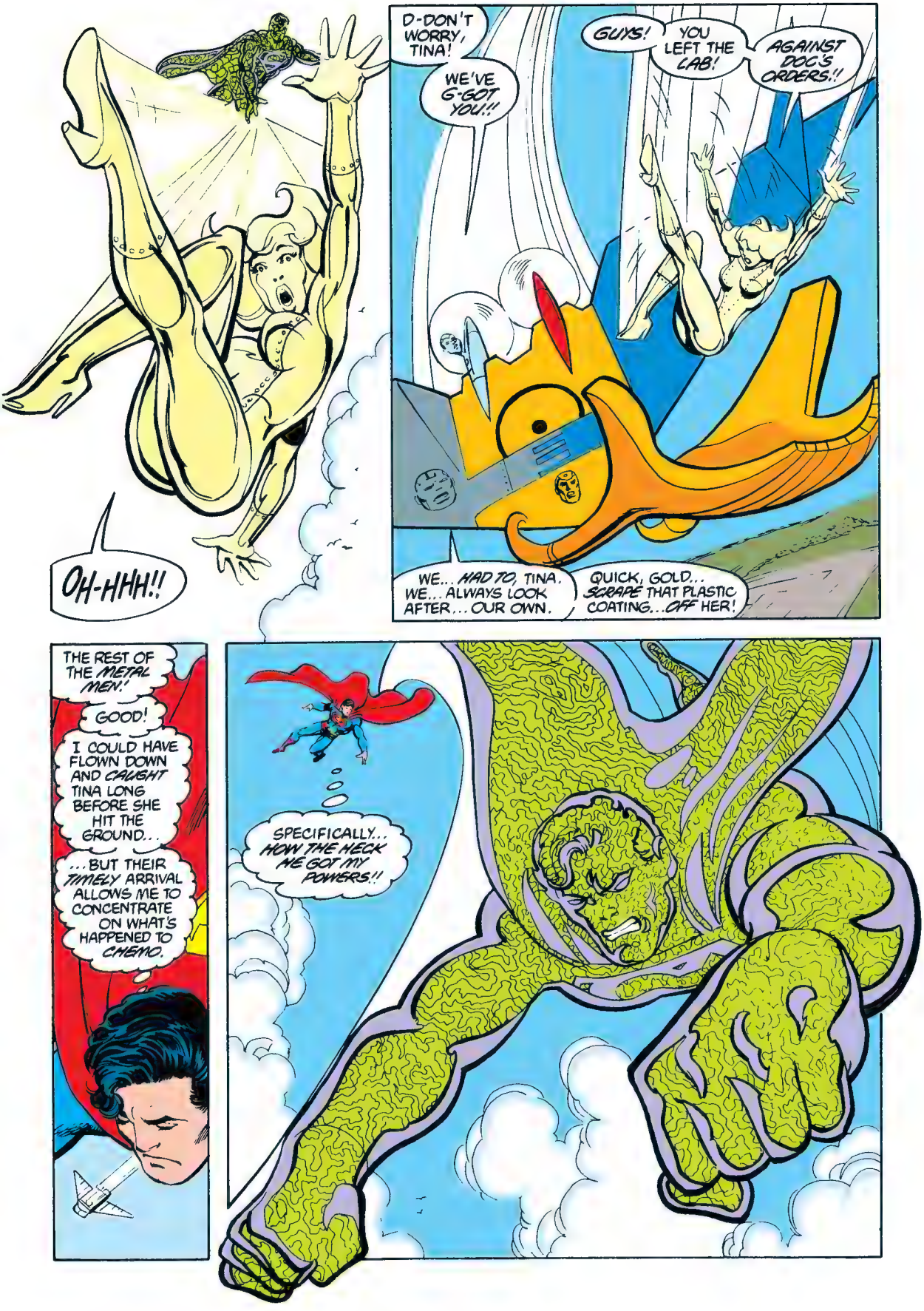

I DON'T GET IT!
HOW DID CHEMO GET ALL OF SUPERMAN'S POWERS, GOLD?
HE'S DUPLICATING THEM CHEMICALLY SOMEHOW, IRON.
I CAN'T BEGIN TO GUESS HOW! BUT THERE'S A VISIBLE CHANGE EVERY TIME HE DOES IT!
LOOK... WHATEVER HE'S DOING... HE'S MORE DANGEROUS THAN EVER!
WE'VE... GOT TO STOP HIM!!

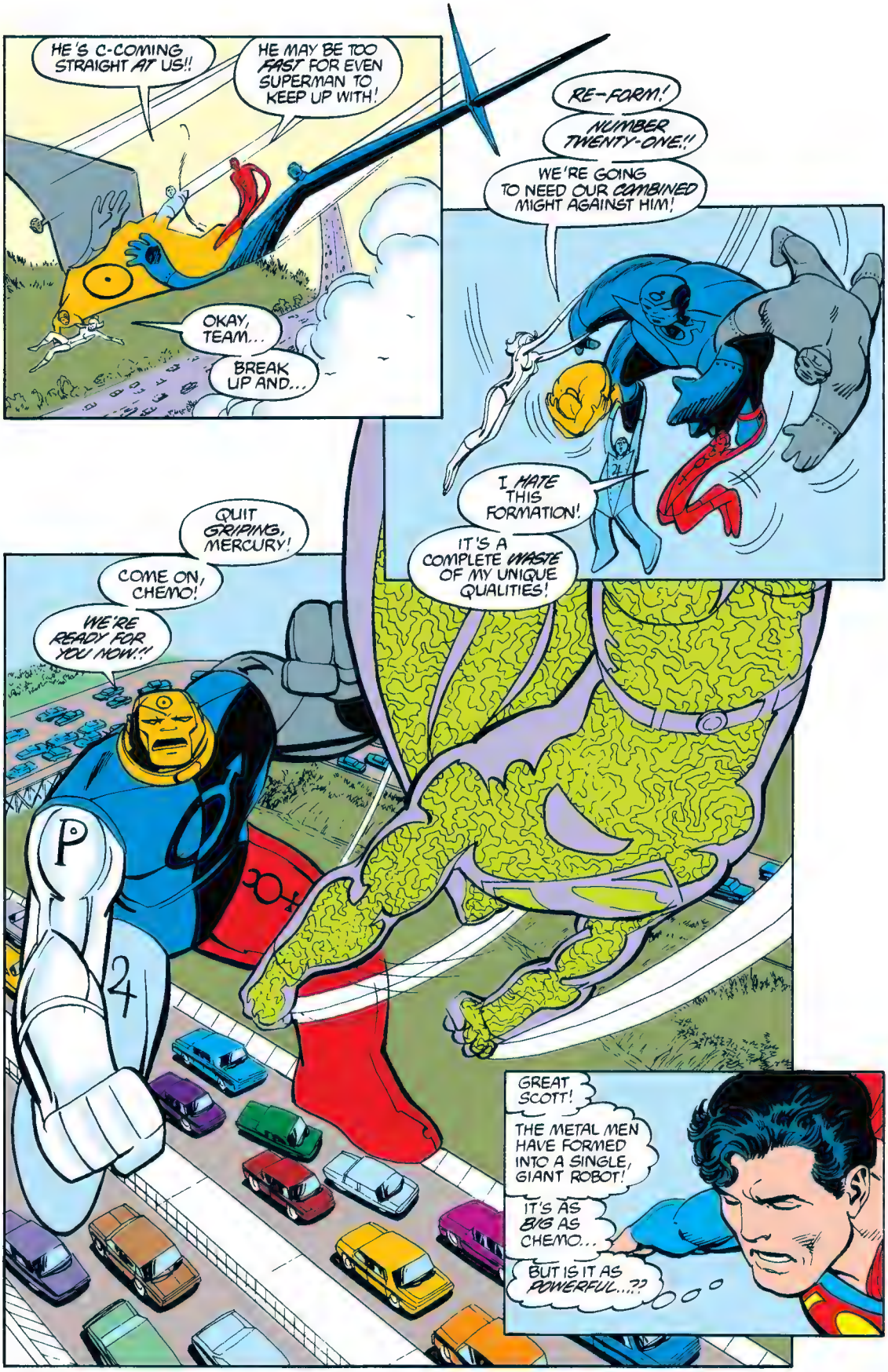

B-BUT H-HOW, G-GOLD? D-DOC'S FORB-BIDDEN US TO L-LEAVE THE B-BASE!
DOC ALSO GAVE US THE FREEDOM OF PROGRAMMING NECESSARY TO ALLOW US TO MAKE OUR OWN DECISIONS, TIN.
CHEMO'S BACK.
TINA'S IN TROUBLE.

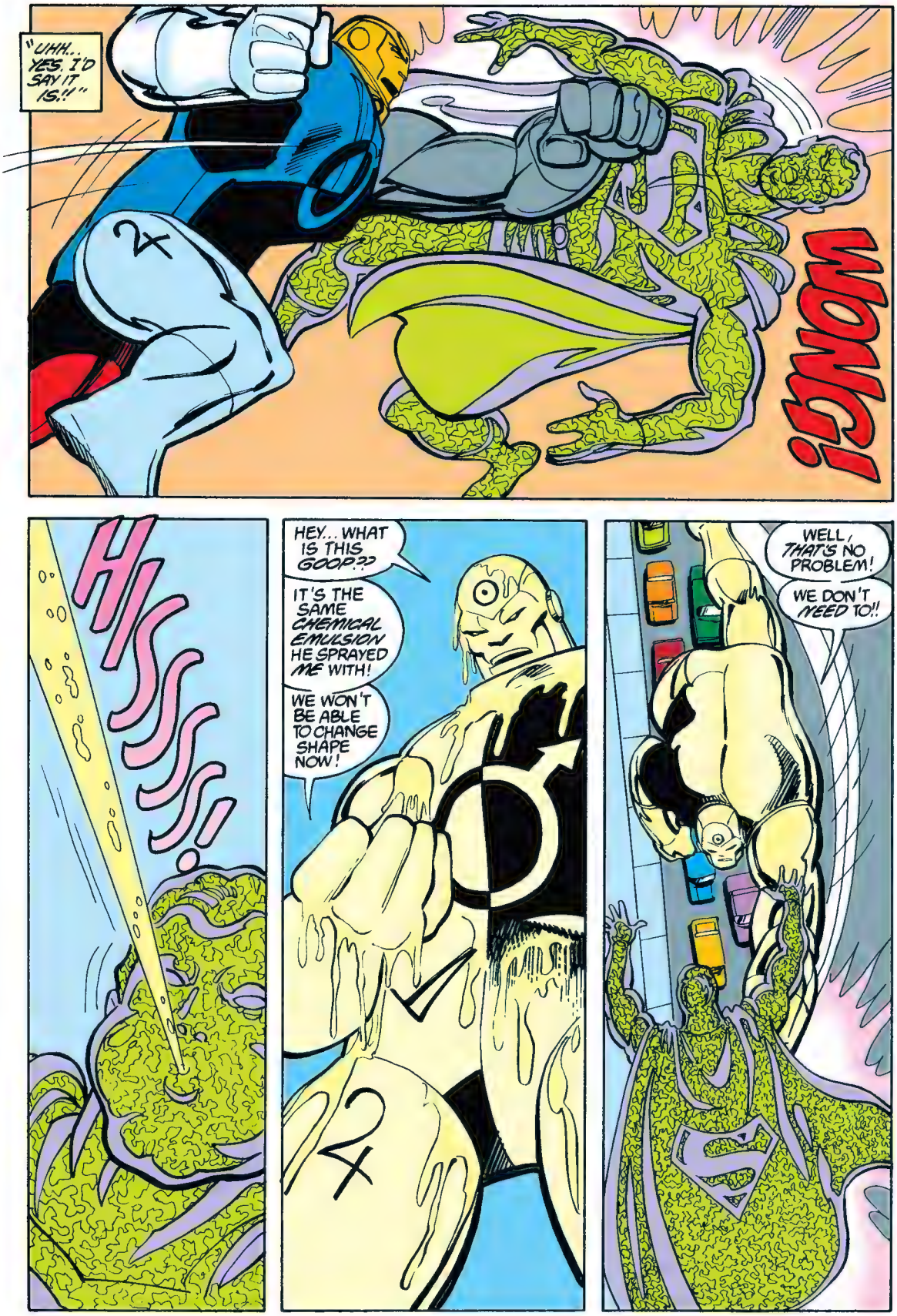

WE AREN'T GOING TO HANG AROUND HERE WAITING FOR THE END OF THE WORLD!
FORM ON ME, METAL MEN!
IT'S TIME FOR A NUMBER FIFTY-SEVEN!

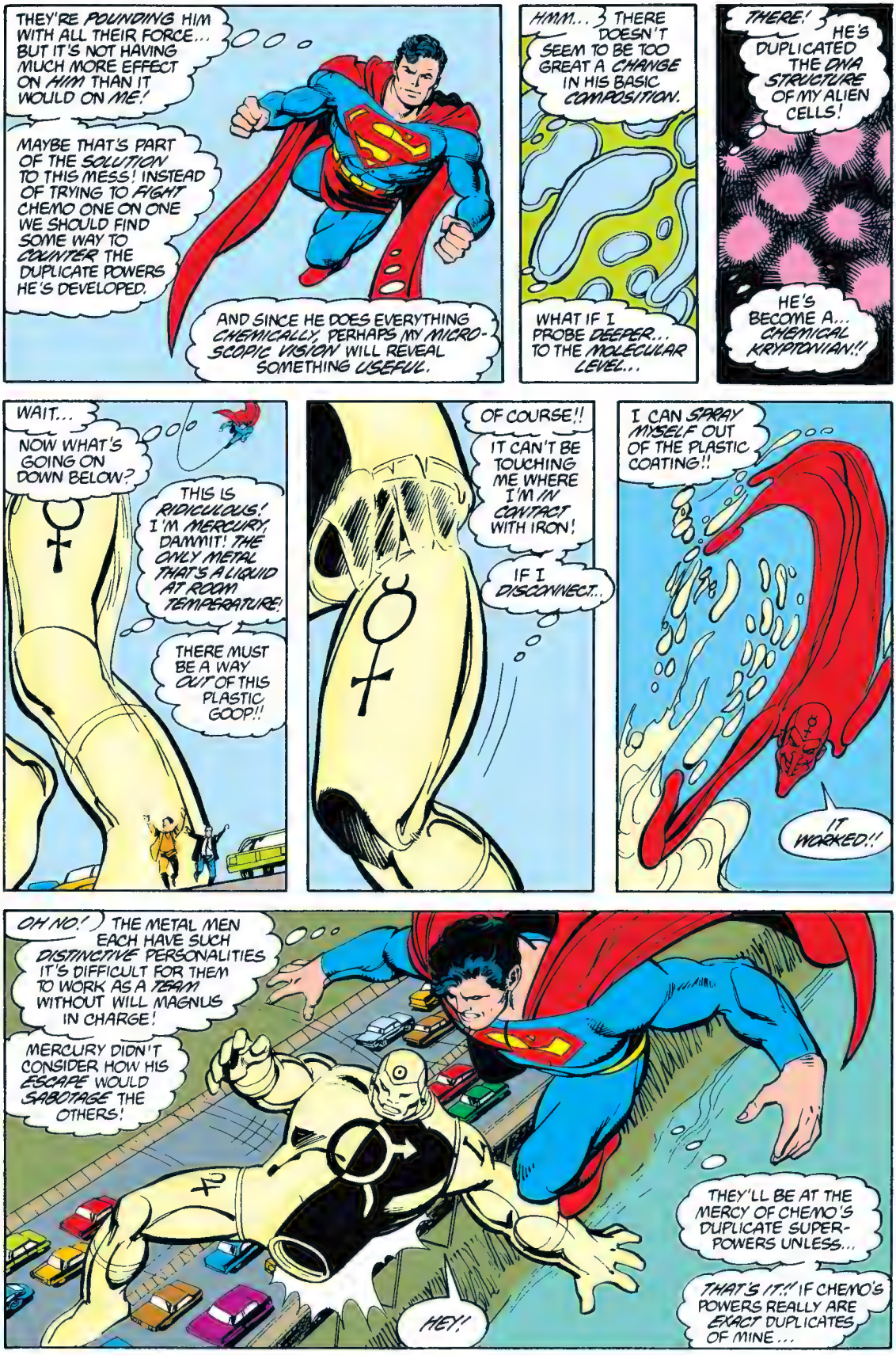
WATCH OUT, CHEMO!!
HERE WE COME!!!


NOW THIS IS THE WAY I LIKE IT!
IT'S BEEN MORE THAN A WEEK SINCE ANY WOULD-BE WORLD-BEATER OR SUPER-POWERED ATTITUDE-PROBLEM TURNED UP IN METROPOLIS.
IF MY BODY DIDN'T EFFICIENTLY PROCESS ONE HUNDRED PERCENT OF THE FOOD I EAT, I'D BE PUTTING ON WEIGHT FROM ALL THIS SOFT...
SUPERMAN!!
HELP ME!!
...LIVING...??
A DAMSEL IN DISTRESS!
A PLATINUM-PLATED DAMSEL IN DISTRESS, IN FACT!
HOLD ON, PLATINUM--
--HERE I COME! STRETCH OUT TO ME!! I'LL PULL YOU FREE!
I CAN'T, SUPERMAN! WHEN CHEMO BROKE INTO THE LAB HE SPRAYED ME WITH SOME KIND OF PLASTIC FILM!
I CAN'T USE MY SHAPE-CHANGING ABILITIES!
CHEMO!?!
THIS IS CHEMO?
SINCE WHEN IS HE THE BIGGEST MEMBER OF MY FAN CLUB?
OKAY, CREEP, WHAT SAY YOU PUT THE LADY DOWN!!
WOK!

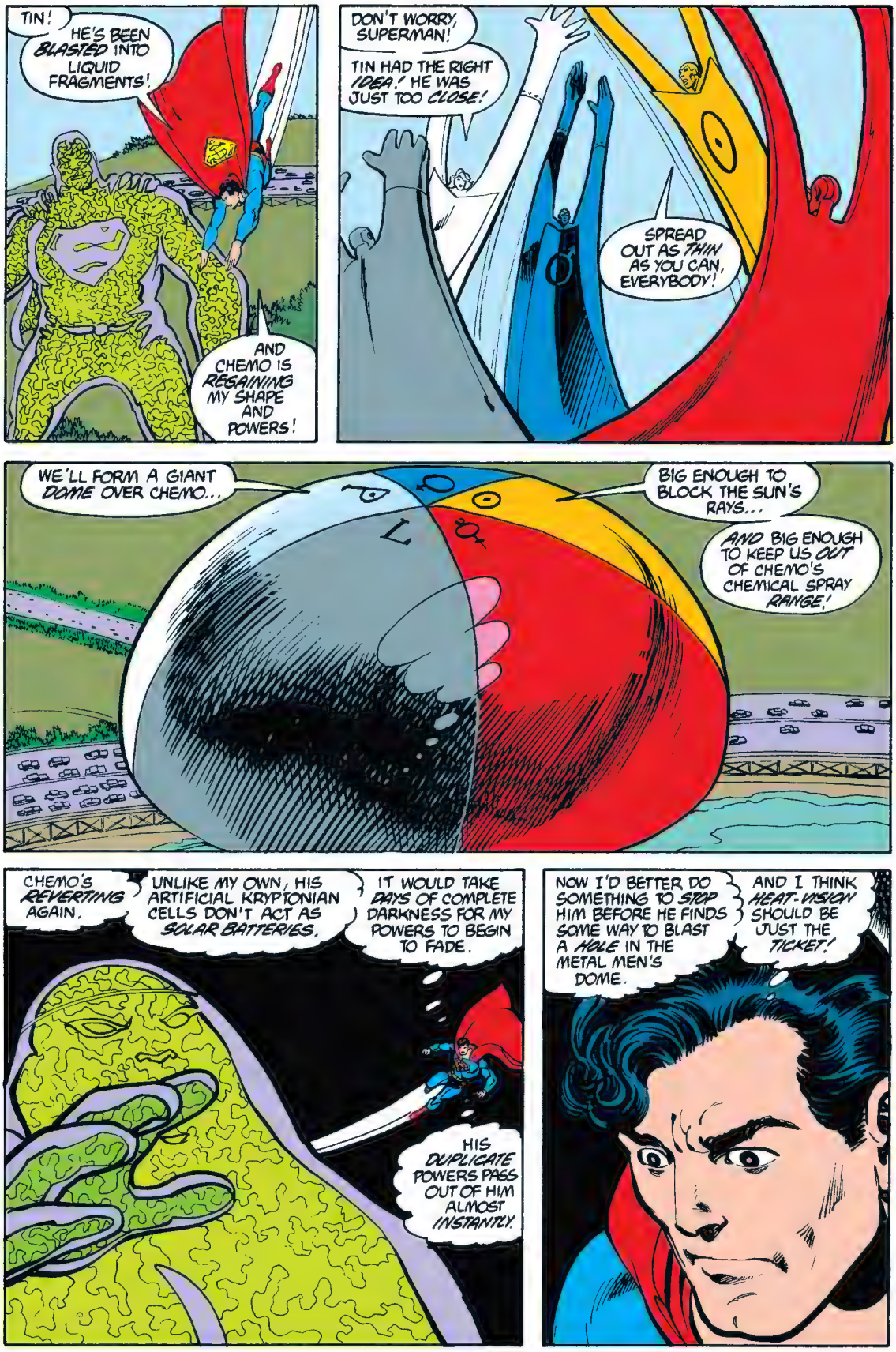

OH-HHH!!
D-DON'T WORRY, TINA!
WE'VE G-GOT YOU!!
GUYS!
YOU LEFT THE LAB!
AGAINST DOC'S ORDERS!!
WE... HAD TO, TINA. WE... ALWAYS LOOK AFTER... OUR OWN.
QUICK, GOLD... SCRAPE THAT PLASTIC COATING... OFF HER!
THE REST OF THE METAL MEN!
GOOD!
I COULD HAVE FLOWN DOWN AND CAUGHT TINA LONG BEFORE SHE HIT THE GROUND...
...BUT THEIR TIMELY ARRIVAL ALLOWS ME TO CONCENTRATE ON WHAT'S HAPPENED TO CHEMO.
SPECIFICALLY... HOW THE HECK HE GOT MY POWERS!!

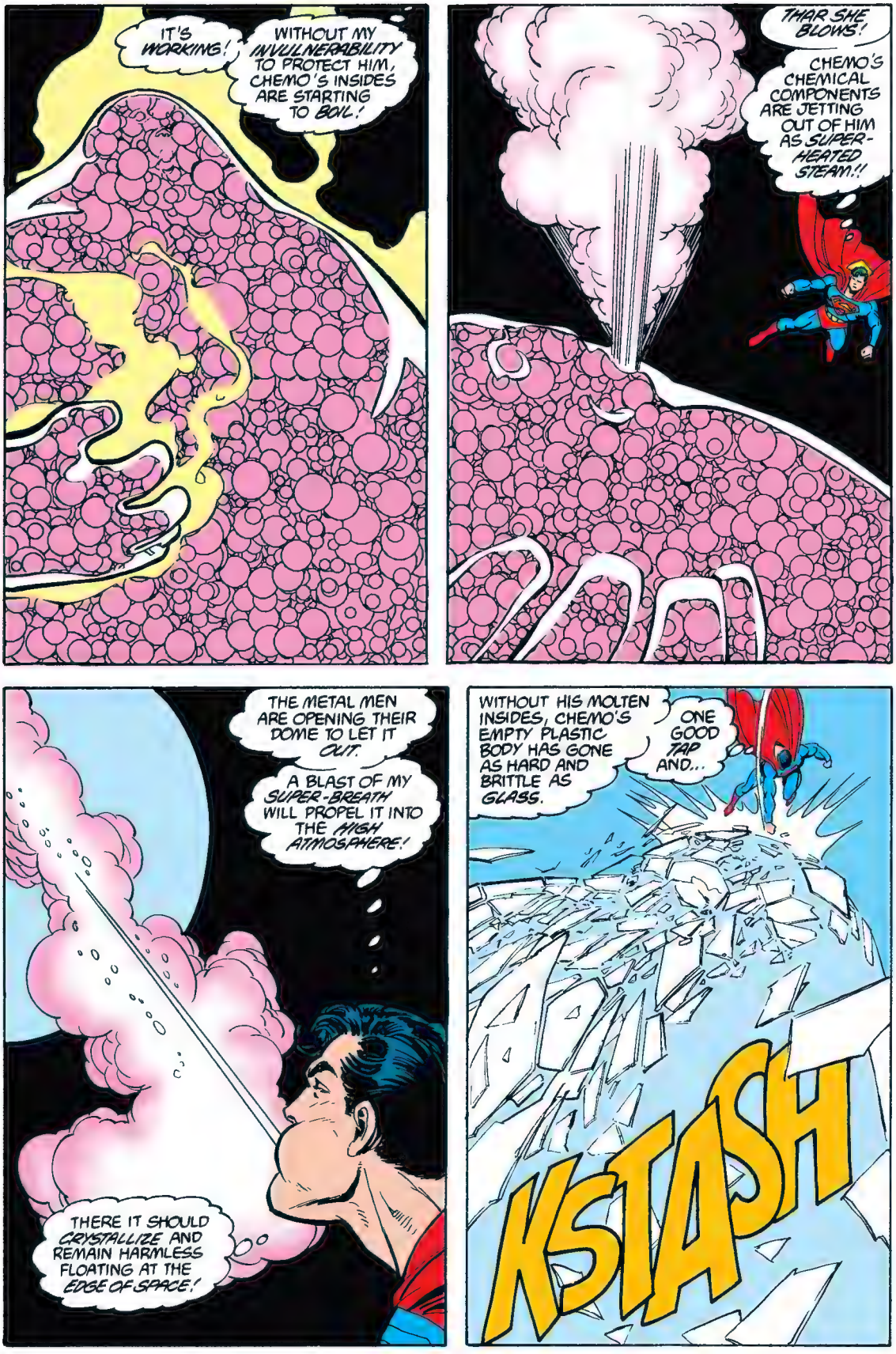

HE'S C-COMING STRAIGHT AT US!!
HE MAY BE TOO FAST FOR EVEN SUPERMAN TO KEEP UP WITH!
OKAY, TEAM...
BREAK UP AND...
RE-FORM!
NUMBER TWENTY-ONE!!
WE'RE GOING TO NEED OUR COMBINED MIGHT AGAINST HIM!
I HATE THIS FORMATION!
IT'S A COMPLETE WASTE OF MY UNIQUE QUALITIES!
QUIT GRIPING, MERCURY!
COME ON, CHEMO!
WE'RE READY FOR YOU NOW!!
GREAT SCOTT!
THE METAL MEN HAVE FORMED INTO A SINGLE, GIANT ROBOT!
IT'S AS BIG AS CHEMO...
BUT IS IT AS POWERFUL...??

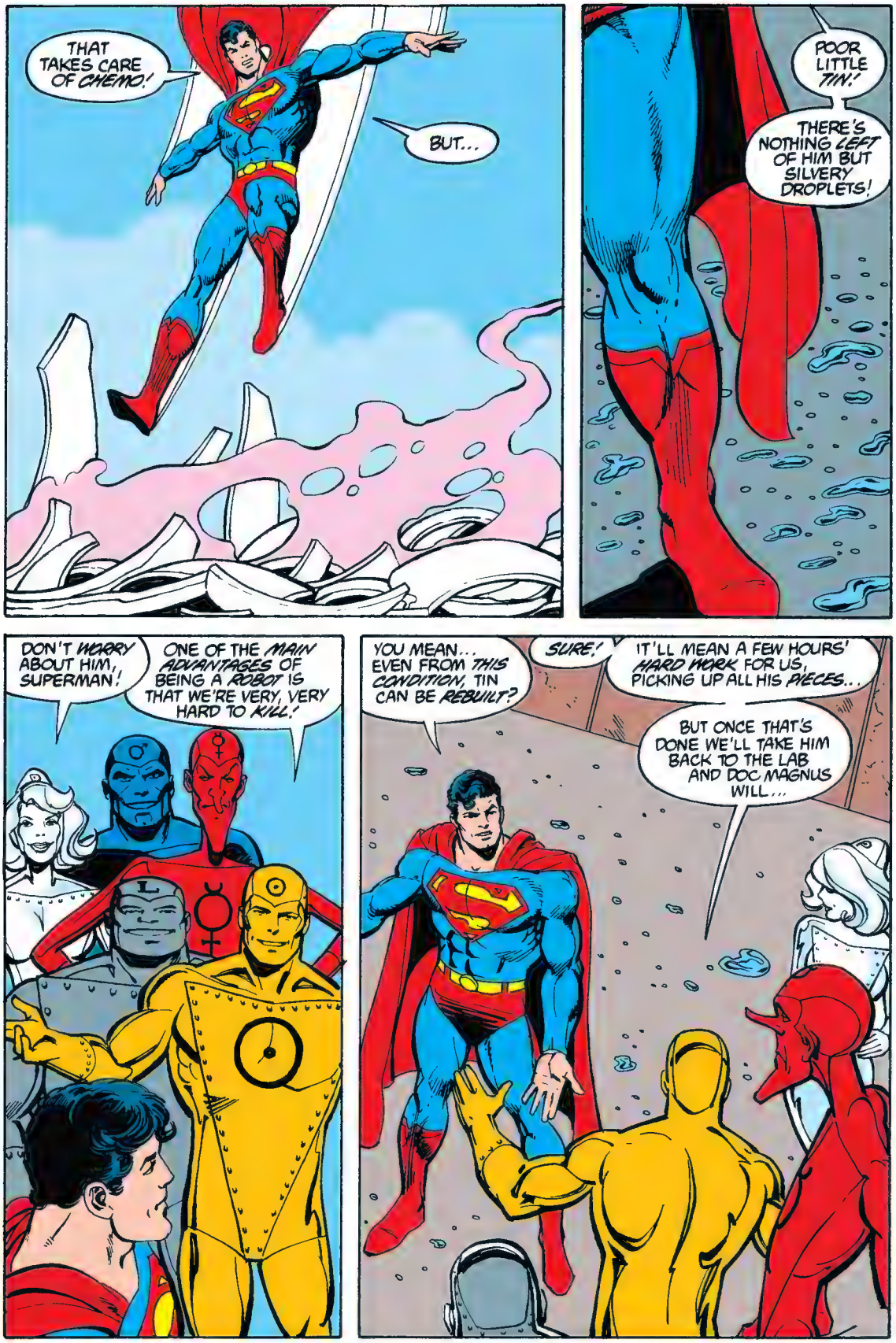

"UHH... YES, I'D SAY IT IS.!!"
WONG!
HISSSS!!
HEY... WHAT IS THIS GOOP??
IT'S THE SAME CHEMICAL EMULSION HE SPRAYED ME WITH!
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO CHANGE SHAPE NOW!
WELL, THAT'S NO PROBLEM!
WE DON'T NEED TO!!


THEY'RE POUNDING HIM WITH ALL THEIR FORCE... BUT IT'S NOT HAVING MUCH MORE EFFECT ON HIM THAN IT WOULD ON ME!
MAYBE THAT'S PART OF THE SOLUTION TO THIS MESS! INSTEAD OF TRYING TO FIGHT CHEMO ONE ON ONE WE SHOULD FIND SOME WAY TO COUNTER THE DUPLICATE POWERS HE'S DEVELOPED.
AND SINCE HE DOES EVERYTHING CHEMICALLY, PERHAPS MY MICROSCOPIC VISION WILL REVEAL SOMETHING USEFUL.
HMM... THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE TOO GREAT A CHANGE IN HIS BASIC COMPOSITION.
WHAT IF I PROBE DEEPER... TO THE MOLECULAR LEVEL...
THERE! HE'S DUPLICATED THE DNA STRUCTURE OF MY ALIEN CELLS!
HE'S BECOME A... CHEMICAL KRYPTONIAN!!
WAIT... NOW WHAT'S GOING ON DOWN BELOW?
THIS IS RIDICULOUS! I'M MERCURY, DAMMIT! THE ONLY METAL THAT'S A LIQUID AT ROOM TEMPERATURE!
THERE MUST BE A WAY OUT OF THIS PLASTIC GOOP!!
OF COURSE!!
IT CAN'T BE TOUCHING ME WHERE I'M IN CONTACT WITH IRON!
IF I DISCONNECT...
I CAN SPRAY MYSELF OUT OF THE PLASTIC COATING!!
IT WORKED!!
OH NO! THE METAL MEN EACH HAVE SUCH DISTINCTIVE PERSONALITIES IT'S DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO WORK AS A TEAM WITHOUT WILL MAGNUS IN CHARGE!
MERCURY DIDN'T CONSIDER HOW HIS ESCAPE WOULD SABOTAGE THE OTHERS!
HEY!
THEY'LL BE AT THE MERCY OF CHEMO'S DUPLICATE SUPER-POWERS UNLESS...
THAT'S IT!! IF CHEMO'S POWERS REALLY ARE EXACT DUPLICATES OF MINE...

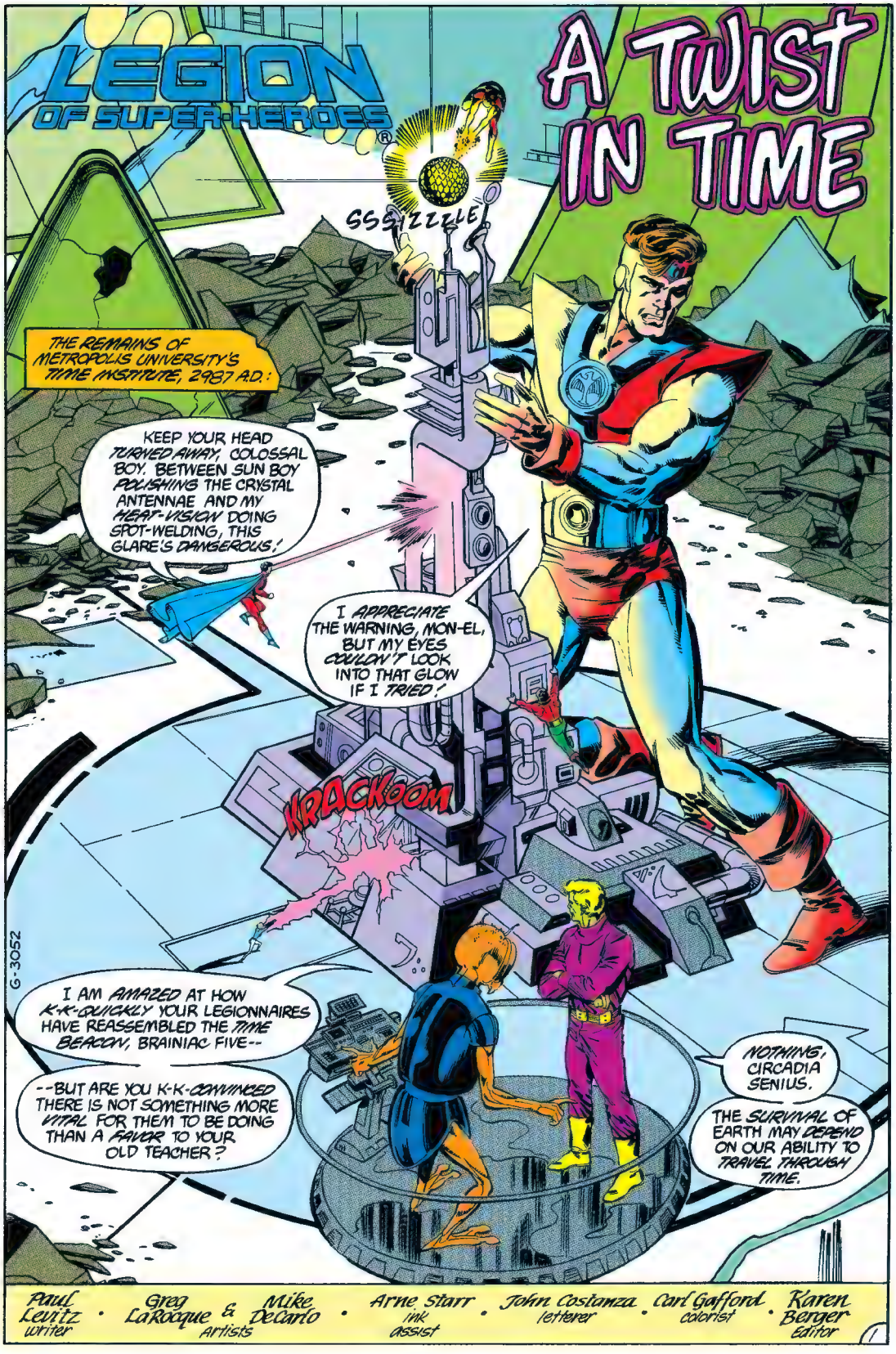
THERE IS A WAY TO STOP HIM!
METAL MEN! QUICKLY! WE'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY TO CUT OFF CHEMO FROM THE SUN'S LIGHT!
HEY!
I CAN D-DO THAT!
I CAN GET OUT OF THIS P-PLASTIC THE SAME WAY M-MERCURY DID AND...
TIN! NO! BLOCKING RADIATION IS WHAT I DO BEST!!
YOU'D N-NEVER BE ABLE TO SPREAD YOURSELF THIN ENOUGH TO C-COVER ALL OF CHEMO, LEAD!
LEAVE THIS T-TO M-ME!!
IT'S WORKING! DEPRIVED OF THE SOLAR RAYS THAT GIVE ME MY POWERS, CHEMO IS REVERTING TO HIS NORMAL FORM.
BUT... BE CAREFUL, TIN! HE'S STILL POWERFUL EVEN WITHOUT...
TIN!!
LOOK OUT!
BWOOSH!


TIN!
HE'S BEEN BLASTED INTO LIQUID FRAGMENTS!
AND CHEMO IS REGAINING MY SHAPE AND POWERS!
DON'T WORRY, SUPERMAN!
TIN HAD THE RIGHT IDEA! HE WAS JUST TOO CLOSE!
SPREAD OUT AS THIN AS YOU CAN, EVERYBODY!
WE'LL FORM A GIANT DOME OVER CHEMO...
BIG ENOUGH TO BLOCK THE SUN'S RAYS...
AND BIG ENOUGH TO KEEP US OUT OF CHEMO'S CHEMICAL SPRAY RANGE!
CHEMO'S REVERTING AGAIN.
UNLIKE MY OWN, HIS ARTIFICIAL KRYPTONIAN CELLS DON'T ACT AS SOLAR BATTERIES.
IT WOULD TAKE DAYS OF COMPLETE DARKNESS FOR MY POWERS TO BEGIN TO FADE.
HIS DUPLICATE POWERS PASS OUT OF HIM ALMOST INSTANTLY.
NOW I'D BETTER DO SOMETHING TO STOP HIM BEFORE HE FINDS SOME WAY TO BLAST A HOLE IN THE METAL MEN'S DOME.
AND I THINK HEAT-VISION SHOULD BE JUST THE TICKET!

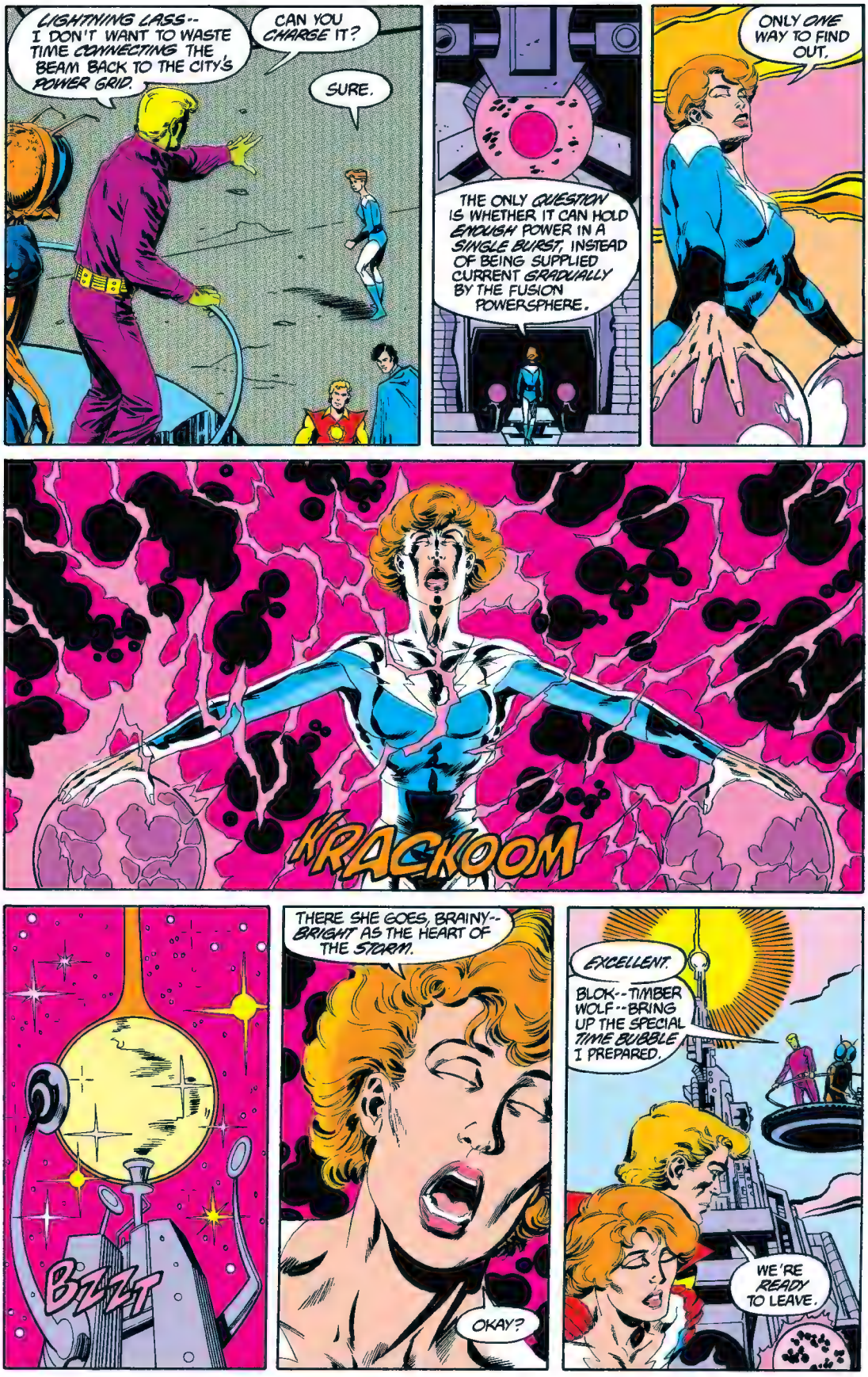

IT'S WORKING!
WITHOUT MY INVULNERABILITY TO PROTECT HIM, CHEMO'S INSIDES ARE STARTING TO BOIL!
THAR SHE BLOWS!
CHEMO'S CHEMICAL COMPONENTS ARE JETTING OUT OF HIM AS SUPER-HEATED STEAM!!
THE METAL MEN ARE OPENING THEIR DOME TO LET IT OUT.
A BLAST OF MY SUPER-BREATH WILL PROPEL IT INTO THE HIGH ATMOSPHERE!
THERE IT SHOULD CRYSTALLIZE AND REMAIN HARMLESS FLOATING AT THE EDGE OF SPACE!
WITHOUT HIS MOLTEN INSIDES, CHEMO'S EMPTY PLASTIC BODY HAS GONE AS HARD AND BRITTLE AS GLASS.
ONE GOOD TAP AND...
KSTASH


THAT TAKES CARE OF CHEMO!
BUT...
POOR LITTLE TIN!
THERE'S NOTHING LEFT OF HIM BUT SILVERY DROPLETS!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM, SUPERMAN!
ONE OF THE MAIN ADVANTAGES OF BEING A ROBOT IS THAT WE'RE VERY, VERY HARD TO KILL!
YOU MEAN... EVEN FROM THIS CONDITION, TIN CAN BE REBUILT?
SURE!
IT'LL MEAN A FEW HOURS' HARD WORK FOR US, PICKING UP ALL HIS PIECES...
BUT ONCE THAT'S DONE WE'LL TAKE HIM BACK TO THE LAB AND DOC MAGNUS WILL...

...REFUSE TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT!
BUT... BUT... BUT, DOC.!!
YOU CAN'T... MEAN THAT! POOR TIN...
...LEFT THIS COMPOUND AGAINST MY EXPRESS ORDERS!
AND NOW, HE'S PAID THE PRICE FOR HIS DISOBEDIENCE! IT'S HIGH TIME YOU ALL STOPPED ACTING LIKE IRRESPONSIBLE CHILDREN--
--AND STARTED ACTING LIKE THE INTELLIGENT, PRACTICAL ROBOTS I INTENDED YOU TO BE!
PERHAPS THE DESTRUCTION OF TIN WILL SMARTEN YOU ALL UP!!
THAT'S MY LAST WORD ON THE SUBJECT!!
SLAM
CURIOUS? CONFUSED? THE DARK SECRETS OF SUB-LEVEL NINE AND THE FATE OF THE METAL MEN WILL BE REVEALED! KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED FOR FUTURE METAL MEN ANNOUNCEMENTS!
BUT, MORE IMMEDIATELY...
NEXT IN ACTION COMICS #591 THE BATTLE YOU THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER SEE!
SUPERMAN VERSUS SUPERBOY
IN THE SKIES OVER SMALLVILLE
IT STARTS NEXT WEEK IN SUPERMAN #8!


LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES®
A TWIST IN TIME
SSSIZZLE!
THE REMAINS OF METROPOLIS UNIVERSITY'S TIME INSTITUTE, 2987 A.D.:
KEEP YOUR HEAD TURNED AWAY, COLOSSAL BOY. BETWEEN SUN BOY POLISHING THE CRYSTAL ANTENNAE AND MY HEAT-VISION DOING SPOT-WELDING, THIS GLARE'S DANGEROUS!
I APPRECIATE THE WARNING, MON-EL, BUT MY EYES COULDN'T LOOK INTO THAT GLOW IF I TRIED!
KRACKOOM
G-3052
I AM AMAZED AT HOW K-K-QUICKLY YOUR LEGIONNAIRES HAVE REASSEMBLED THE TIME BEACON, BRAINIAC FIVE--
--BUT ARE YOU K-K-CONVINCED THERE IS NOT SOMETHING MORE VITAL FOR THEM TO BE DOING THAN A FAVOR TO YOUR OLD TEACHER?
NOTHING, CIRCADIA SENIUS.
THE SURVIVAL OF EARTH MAY DEPEND ON OUR ABILITY TO TRAVEL THROUGH TIME.
Paul Levitz writer · Greg LaRocque & Mike DeCarlo artists · Arne Starr ink assist · John Costanza letterer · Carl Gafford colorist · Karen Berger editor

EVERYBODY BACK NOW-- I'M GOING TO PUT THE FINAL POLISH ON THE BEACON'S CRYSTAL!
TO AFFECT THE SUPER-COOLED INVERTRON CRYSTAL STRUCTURE, I HAVE TO PROJECT ABSOLUTELY PURE LIGHT--AS COHERENT A BEAM AS A LASER--
ZZLAPP
--AND JUST WATCH THAT BURN! WHEW!
BZZLAP
PERFECT.
AND FOR THE MOMENT, AT LEAST, IT APPEARS WE'RE IN TIME.
YOU ARE FAR AHEAD OF ANY OF MY SCHEDULES, BRAINIAC.
I MEANT WE'RE FINISHED BEFORE THE TIME TRAPPER RESUMES HIS ATTACK.
WE EXPECTED HIM TO FOLLOW HIS DESTRUCTION OF THE TIME INSTITUTE BY AN ALL-OUT WAR ON OUR CENTURY.
THAT'S ALL BASED ON COSMIC BOY'S GUESSWORK, BRAINY--WE HAVE NO PROOF THE TRAPPER'S BEHIND THIS DAMAGE.
IF HISTORY ITSELF HAS BEEN ALTERED,* SUN BOY, WHO ELSE COULD BE RESPONSIBLE?
IT'S BEYOND ANY MORTAL POWER.
* COSMIC BOY #1-4--KB


LIGHTNING LASS-- I DON'T WANT TO WASTE TIME CONNECTING THE BEAM BACK TO THE CITY'S POWER GRID.
CAN YOU CHARGE IT?
SURE.
THE ONLY QUESTION IS WHETHER IT CAN HOLD ENOUGH POWER IN A SINGLE BURST, INSTEAD OF BEING SUPPLIED CURRENT GRADUALLY BY THE FUSION POWERSPHERE.
ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT.
KRACKOOM
BZZZT
THERE SHE GOES, BRAINY-- BRIGHT AS THE HEART OF THE STORM.
OKAY?
EXCELLENT.
BLOK--TIMBER WOLF--BRING UP THE SPECIAL TIME BUBBLE I PREPARED.
WE'RE READY TO LEAVE.

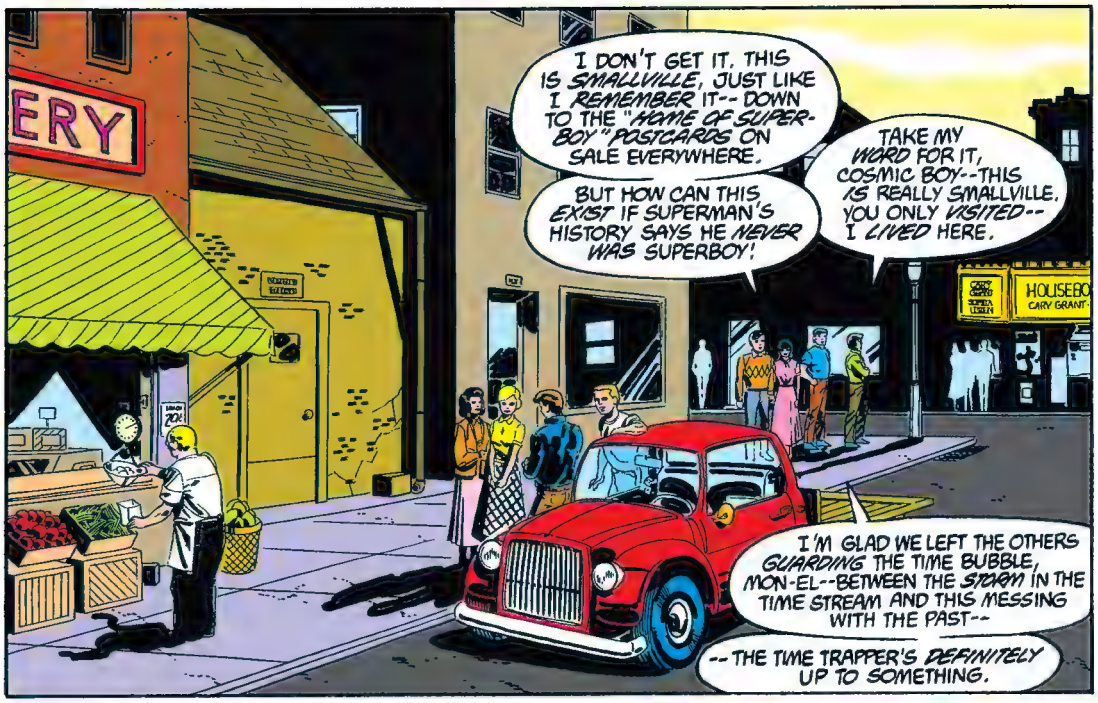
WOW! THAT LOOKS A LOT LARGER THAN OUR OLD TIME BUBBLES!
AND HEAVIER, TOO, LIGHTNING LASS!
STOP COMPLAINING, BLOK--AND STOP WOBBLING!
TIMBER WOLF, BLOK--PLEASE--BE CAREFUL!
I ADDED EQUIPMENT TO COUNTER WHAT THE TIME TRAPPER MAY DO TO US--BUT IT IS NOT INVULNERABLE TO CLUMSINESS!
WHATEVER YOU ADDED, BRAINY, IT WON'T BE ENOUGH.
I ONLY HOPE YOU'RE WRONG, COSMIC BOY.
EITHER THE TRAPPER'S GROWN MORE POWERFUL, OR HE'S EXAGGERATING IT MORE.
LYDDA AND I ONLY GOT AWAY BECAUSE HE PLAYED ANOTHER OF HIS SILLY GAMES.
I WISH WE DIDN'T HAVE TO GO BACK AND FACE HIM AGAIN.
BUT I GUESS THERE'S NO ALTERNATIVE.
NONE, NIGHT GIRL. WHICH IS WHY THIS MISSION WILL TAKE THE ENTIRE STRENGTH OF THE LEGION.
LET ME CALL THE OTHERS--
--WHAT--?
KACHUNK
POLAR BOY??
SORRY, BRAINY--BUT MY FIRST JOB AS NEW LEADER OF THE TEAM WAS TO MAKE SOME ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE EARTHGOV--
--AND THEY DON'T TAKE KINDLY TO THE WHOLE LEGION TAKING OFF WHEN THE PLANET MAY BE ABOUT TO BE ATTACKED.

I CAN'T SAY I SYMPATHIZE WITH YOUR PRIORITIES, POLAR BOY, BUT I'M NOT GOING TO WASTE MY BREATH ARGUING.
AT LEAST YOU'RE LETTING ME TAKE A REASONABLE TEAM WITH ME.
YOU MIGHT BE BETTER OFF WITH A SELECT GROUP THAN A SMALL ARMY, BRAINY.
COSMIC BOY'S GOT A POINT.
BESIDES, WHAT IF THE TRAPPER STRIKES HERE FIRST?
OR THE DOMINATORS DECIDE TO CAPITALIZE ON THE DAMAGE UNIVERSO DID TO EARTH?
OR WHAT IF WE DON'T COME BACK, AND THE TIME TRAPPER DOES, POLAR BOY?
I CAN FRAME A HYPOTHESIS FOR ANY SITUATION YOU CAN SUGGEST--NONE OF WHICH GET US ANY FURTHER.
ALL I WANT TO KNOW IS HOW POLAR BOY PICKED THE TEAM. I CAN'T FIGURE OUT HIS STRATEGY!
I'M NOT ASKING, ROKK, SINCE HE'S LETTING ME GO EVEN THOUGH I'M NOT A LEGIONNAIRE.
BESIDES, WHEN HE WAS RUNNING THE SUBSTITUTE HEROES, POLAR BOY WAS KNOWN FOR COURAGE AND INTUITION--NOT LOGIC.
OH, GREAT.
GOOD LUCK, LEGIONNAIRES.
IF ALL WE HAVE ON OUR SIDE IS LUCK, POLAR BOY--
WHOOSH
--WE'RE GONNA BE IN A LOT OF TROUBLE!

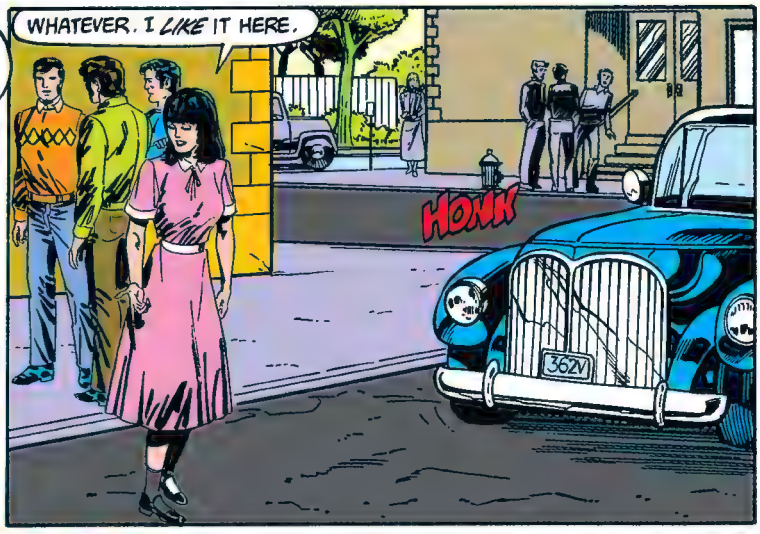
NEXT STOP, THE TRAPPER'S CITADEL AT THE END OF TIME.
PROVIDING YOUR NEW GIMMICKS CAN LET US CRACK HIS "IRON CURTAIN" THAT'S ALWAYS KEPT US OUT OF THE DISTANT FUTURE, BRAINY.
I BELIEVE THEY CAN, MON-EL. I'VE IMPROVED THE BUBBLE IN MANY WAYS.
2980
2970
2950
2920
2850
2800
GOOD--BUT I HOPE ONE OF THEM IS A DEVICE TO RIDE OUT TIME STORMS--
KSHOOOM
--BECAUSE HERE WE GO!
WHUMPP
HOLD ON, MON-EL--YOU PROVIDE THE FORWARD MOTION, AND I'LL TRY TO STABILIZE OUR TIME TRAVEL.
THE BUBBLE ITSELF'S HOLDING UP FINE.
OKAY--I HAVE NO IDEA WHICH WAY IS FORWARD, BRAINY--
--BUT I'LL KEEP PUSHING!

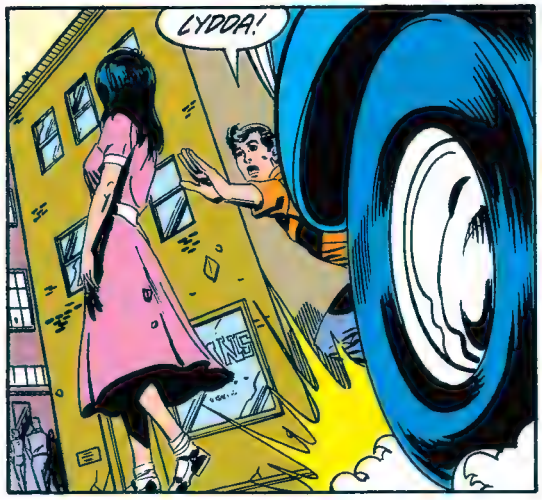
BRAINY--I CAN'T EVEN SEE THE TIME BUBBLE ANY-MORE--
--EVERYTHING'S GONE INSANE!
HOLD ON, MON-EL--JUST HOLD ON!
BY MY FINGERTIPS, BRAINY--
--BUT I MAY HAVE TO CRACK THE BUBBLE TO DO IT!
LOOK--THERE'S A PATHWAY CLEARING--WE'RE MAKING IT!
PUSH US THROUGH, MON-EL!
YOU'RE RIGHT, BRAINY--IT IS CLEARING--BUT WHAT CENTURY ARE WE HEADED INTO?
IT MUST BE THE END OF TIME! WE'RE BREAKING THE TRAPPER'S BARRIER!
ONE LAST PUSH, MON-EL!
ON THREE, BRAINY: ONE, TWO--
THREE!
WHOOOSH
TERRIFIC! THAT SHOULD DO--
--OH NO!
WHAT IS IT, BRAINY--WHAT HAPPENED?
DIDN'T WE MAKE IT THROUGH THE STORM?
WE'RE THROUGH THE STORM ALL RIGHT, ULTRA BOY--BUT IT SEEMS WE'RE GOING BACK IN TIME, NOT FORWARD.

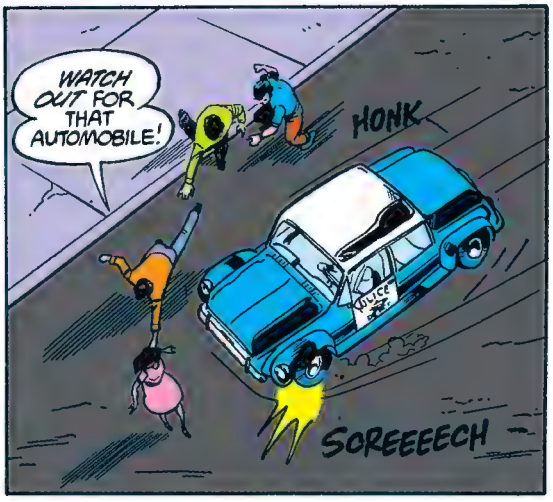
FORGIVE ME, BRAINIAC, BUT I HAVE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO FULLY GRASP HUMAN CONCEPTS OF TIME - CALCULATION.
IS NOT THE END OF TIME ALSO THE BEGINNING, SO IF WE HAVE GONE BACKWARDS WILL WE STILL NOT REACH OUR DESTINATION?
I'LL DEBATE THEORY WITH YOU ANOTHER DAY, BLOK--
-- RIGHT NOW I HAVE TO FIGURE OUT "WHEN" WE'LL BE WHEN WE GET OUT OF THE TIME STREAM.
HMMM... VECTOR ANALYSIS-- YES-- THAT'S IT!
SUPERBOY'S TIME, RIGHT?
HUH?
HOW IN THE STARS DID YOU CALCULATE THAT CORRECTLY, NIGHT GIRL?
WELCOME
TO
SM
HOME
SUPERBO
BRAINY, SOMETIMES OPEN EYES ARE AS EFFECTIVE AS A COMPUTER MIND--
--LOOK.

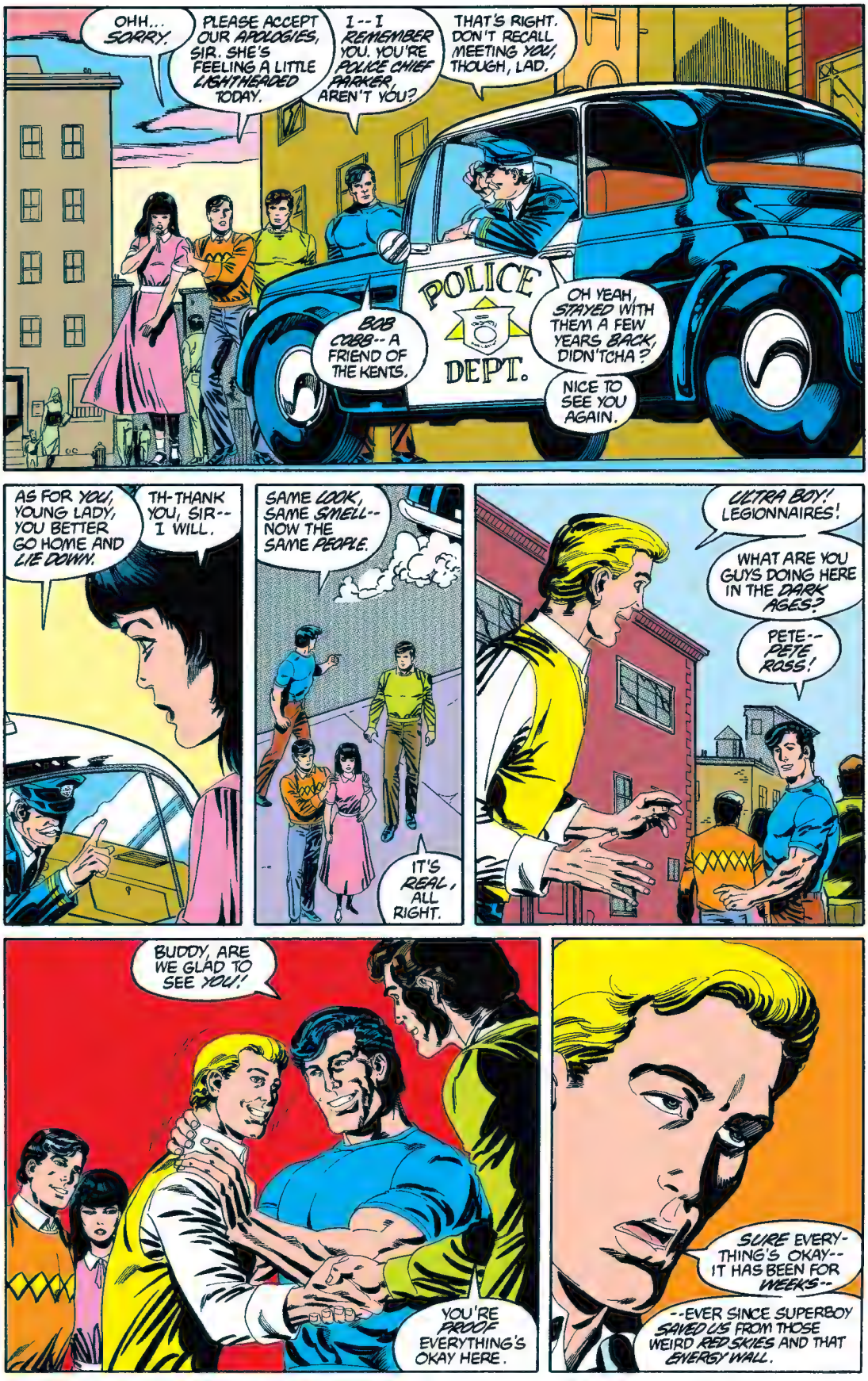

I DON'T GET IT. THIS IS SMALLVILLE, JUST LIKE I REMEMBER IT-- DOWN TO THE "HOME OF SUPER-BOY" POSTCARDS ON SALE EVERYWHERE.
BUT HOW CAN THIS EXIST IF SUPERMAN'S HISTORY SAYS HE NEVER WAS SUPERBOY!
TAKE MY WORD FOR IT, COSMIC BOY--THIS IS REALLY SMALLVILLE. YOU ONLY VISITED-- I LIVED HERE.
I'M GLAD WE LEFT THE OTHERS GUARDING THE TIME BUBBLE, MON-EL--BETWEEN THE STORM IN THE TIME STREAM AND THIS MESSING WITH THE PAST--
--THE TIME TRAPPER'S DEFINITELY UP TO SOMETHING.

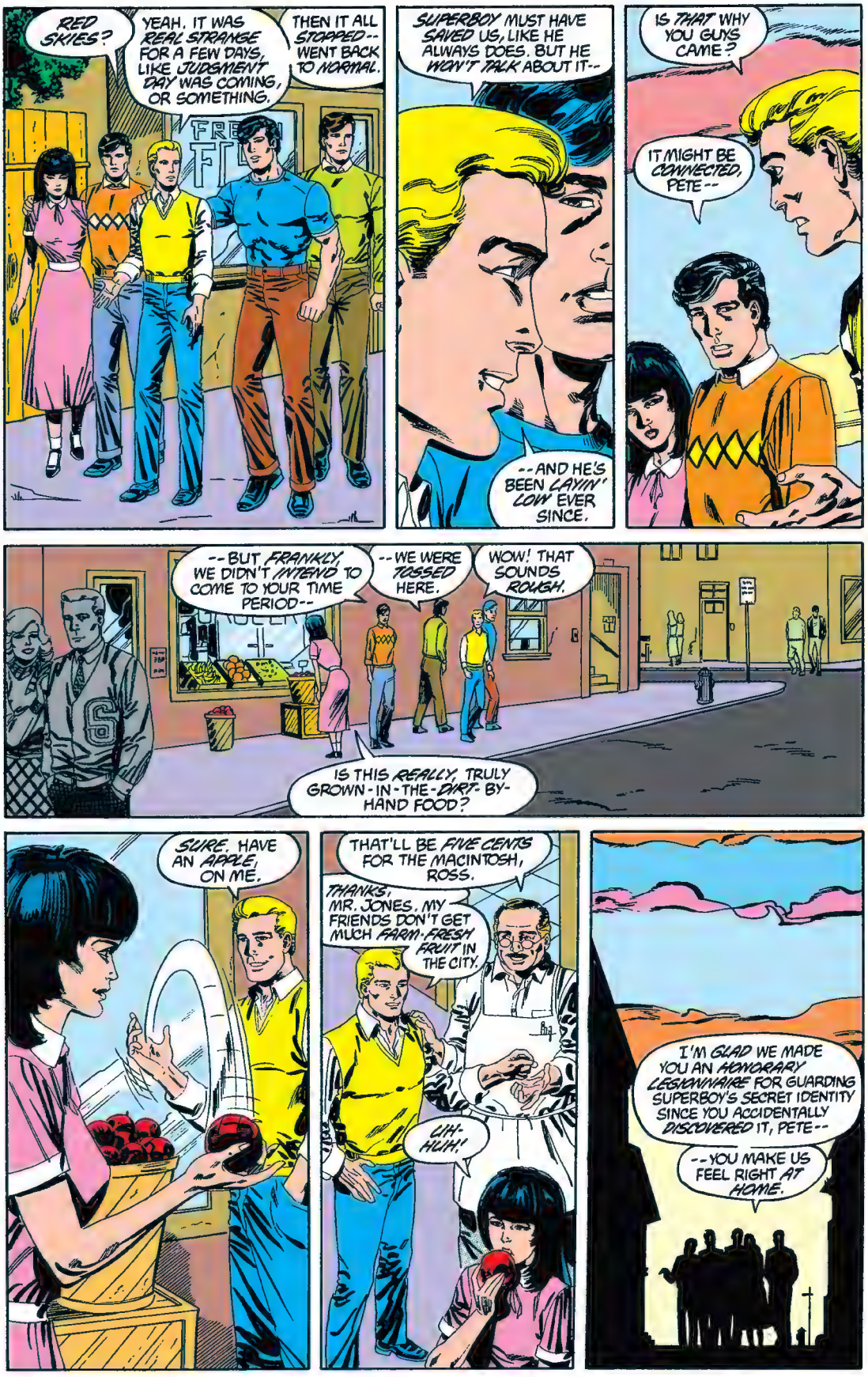
THIS EVEN SMELLS LIKE THE OLD EARTH I'VE HEARD ABOUT -- CLEAN.
THESE WERE THE EARLY YEARS OF THE TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTION, NIGHT GIRL.

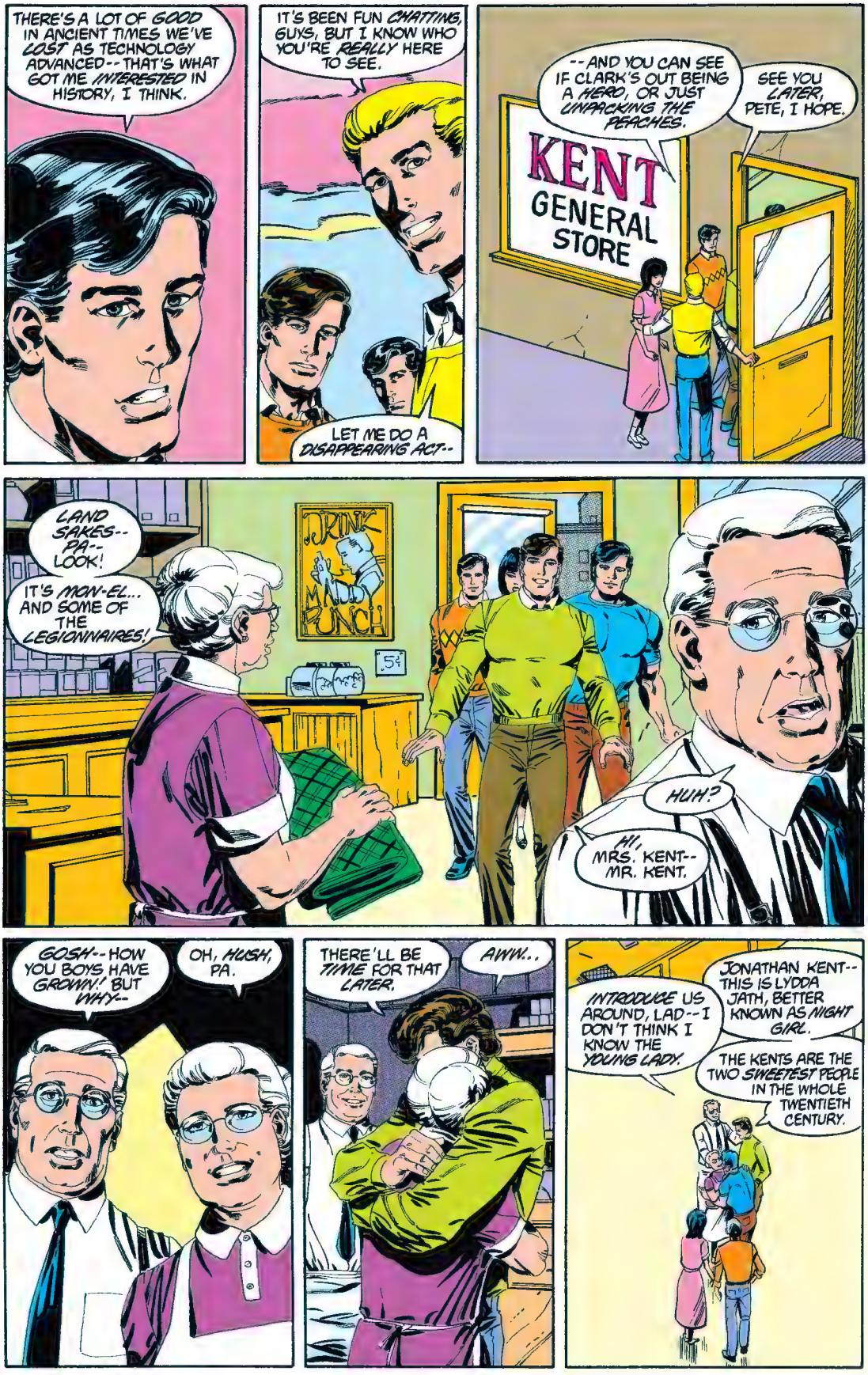

WHATEVER. I LIKE IT HERE.
HONK
362V


LYDDA!


WATCH OUT FOR THAT AUTOMOBILE!
HONK
SOREEEECH


OHH... SORRY.
PLEASE ACCEPT OUR APOLOGIES, SIR. SHE'S FEELING A LITTLE LIGHTHEADED TODAY.
I--I REMEMBER YOU. YOU'RE POLICE CHIEF PARKER, AREN'T YOU?
THAT'S RIGHT. DON'T RECALL MEETING YOU, THOUGH, LAD.
POLICE
DEPT.
BOB COBB-- A FRIEND OF THE KENTS.
OH YEAH, STAYED WITH THEM A FEW YEARS BACK, DIDN'TCHA?
NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
AS FOR YOU, YOUNG LADY, YOU BETTER GO HOME AND LIE DOWN.
TH-THANK YOU, SIR-- I WILL.
SAME LOOK, SAME SMELL-- NOW THE SAME PEOPLE.
IT'S REAL, ALL RIGHT.
ULTRA BOY! LEGIONNAIRES!
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING HERE IN THE DARK AGES?
PETE-- PETE ROSS!
BUDDY, ARE WE GLAD TO SEE YOU!
YOU'RE PROOF EVERYTHING'S OKAY HERE.
SURE EVERY-THING'S OKAY-- IT HAS BEEN FOR WEEKS--
--EVER SINCE SUPERBOY SAVED US FROM THOSE WEIRD RED SKIES AND THAT ENERGY WALL.

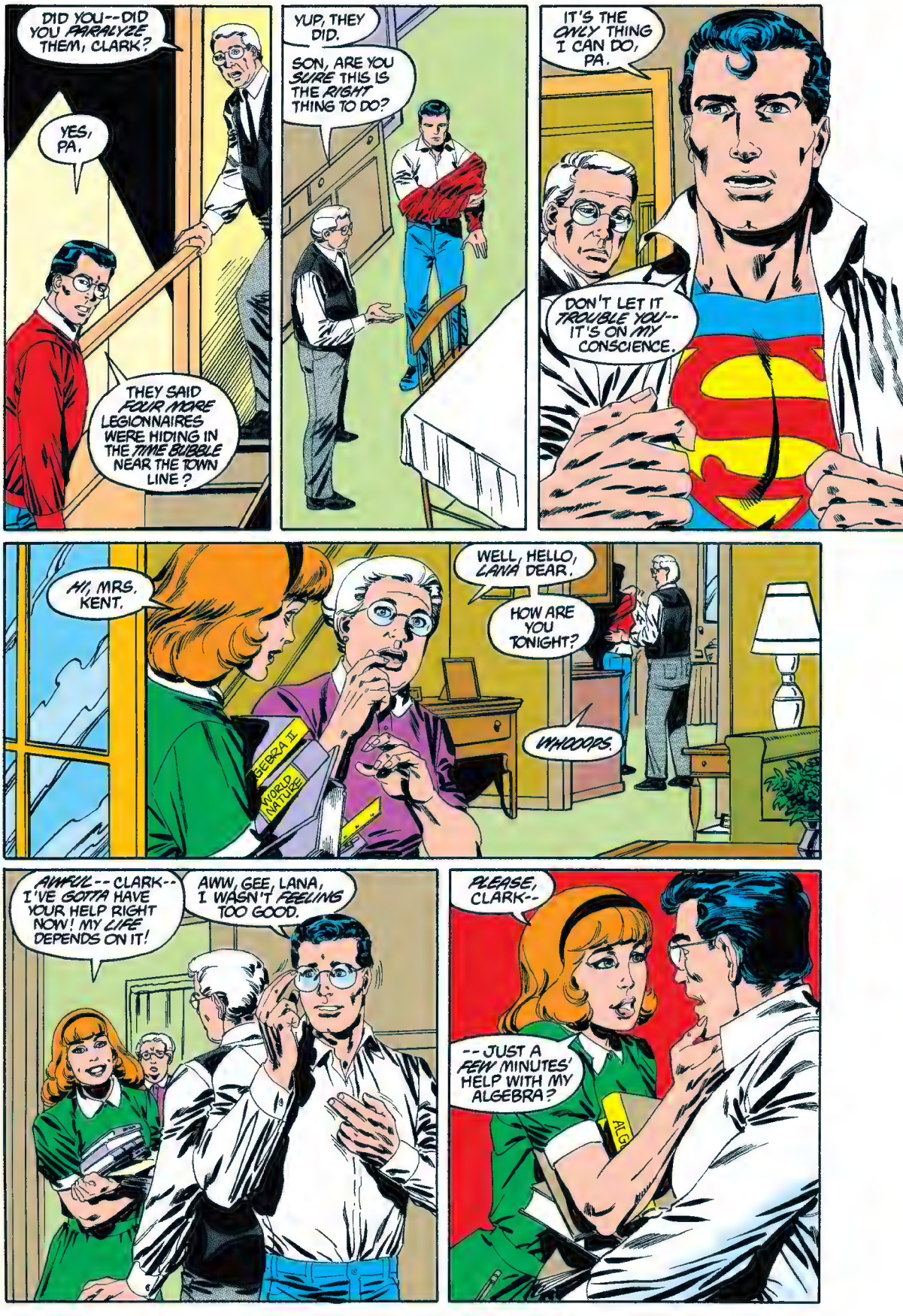

RED SKIES?
YEAH. IT WAS REAL STRANGE FOR A FEW DAYS, LIKE JUDGMENT DAY WAS COMING, OR SOMETHING.
THEN IT ALL STOPPED-- WENT BACK TO NORMAL.
SUPERBOY MUST HAVE SAVED US, LIKE HE ALWAYS DOES. BUT HE WON'T TALK ABOUT IT--
--AND HE'S BEEN LAYIN' LOW EVER SINCE.
IS THAT WHY YOU GUYS CAME?
IT MIGHT BE CONNECTED, PETE--
--BUT FRANKLY, WE DIDN'T INTEND TO COME TO YOUR TIME PERIOD--
--WE WERE TOSSED HERE.
WOW! THAT SOUNDS ROUGH.
IS THIS REALLY, TRULY GROWN-IN-THE-DIRT-BY-HAND FOOD?
SURE. HAVE AN APPLE, ON ME.
THAT'LL BE FIVE CENTS FOR THE MACINTOSH, ROSS.
THANKS, MR. JONES. MY FRIENDS DON'T GET MUCH FARM-FRESH FRUIT IN THE CITY.
UH-HUH!
I'M GLAD WE MADE YOU AN HONORARY LEGIONNAIRE FOR GUARDING SUPERBOY'S SECRET IDENTITY SINCE YOU ACCIDENTALLY DISCOVERED IT, PETE--
--YOU MAKE US FEEL RIGHT AT HOME.

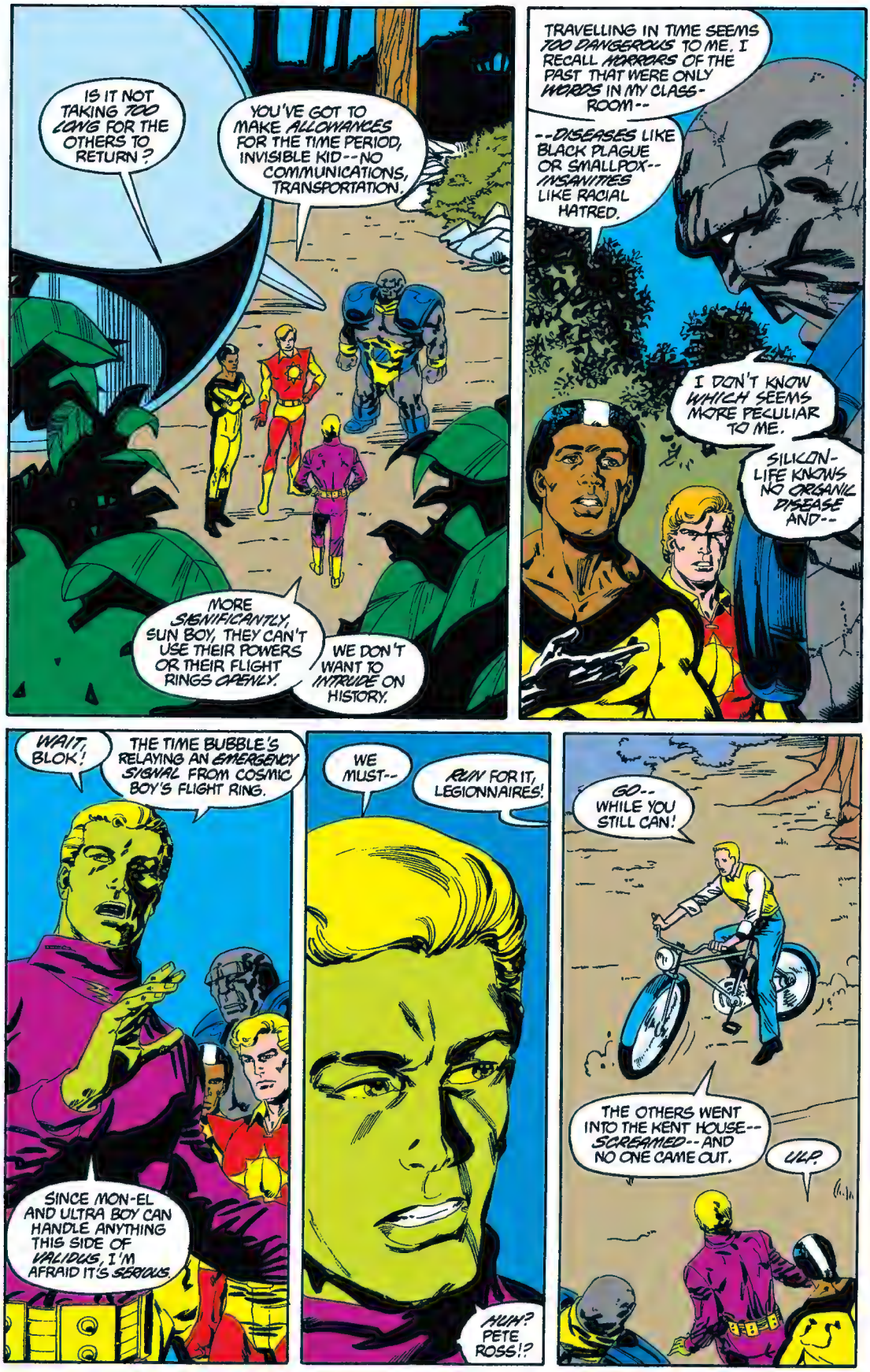

THERE'S A LOT OF GOOD IN ANCIENT TIMES WE'VE LOST AS TECHNOLOGY ADVANCED--THAT'S WHAT GOT ME INTERESTED IN HISTORY, I THINK.
IT'S BEEN FUN CHATTING, GUYS, BUT I KNOW WHO YOU'RE REALLY HERE TO SEE.
LET ME DO A DISAPPEARING ACT--
--AND YOU CAN SEE IF CLARK'S OUT BEING A HERO, OR JUST UNPACKING THE PEACHES.
SEE YOU LATER, PETE, I HOPE.
KENT GENERAL STORE
LAND SAKES--PA--LOOK!
IT'S MON-EL... AND SOME OF THE LEGIONNAIRES!
DRINK MADDY PUNCH
5¢
HUH?
HI, MRS. KENT--MR. KENT.
GOSH--HOW YOU BOYS HAVE GROWN! BUT WHY--
OH, HUSH, PA.
THERE'LL BE TIME FOR THAT LATER.
AWW...
INTRODUCE US AROUND, LAD--I DON'T THINK I KNOW THE YOUNG LADY.
JONATHAN KENT--THIS IS LYDDA JATH, BETTER KNOWN AS NIGHT GIRL.
THE KENTS ARE THE TWO SWEETEST PEOPLE IN THE WHOLE TWENTIETH CENTURY.

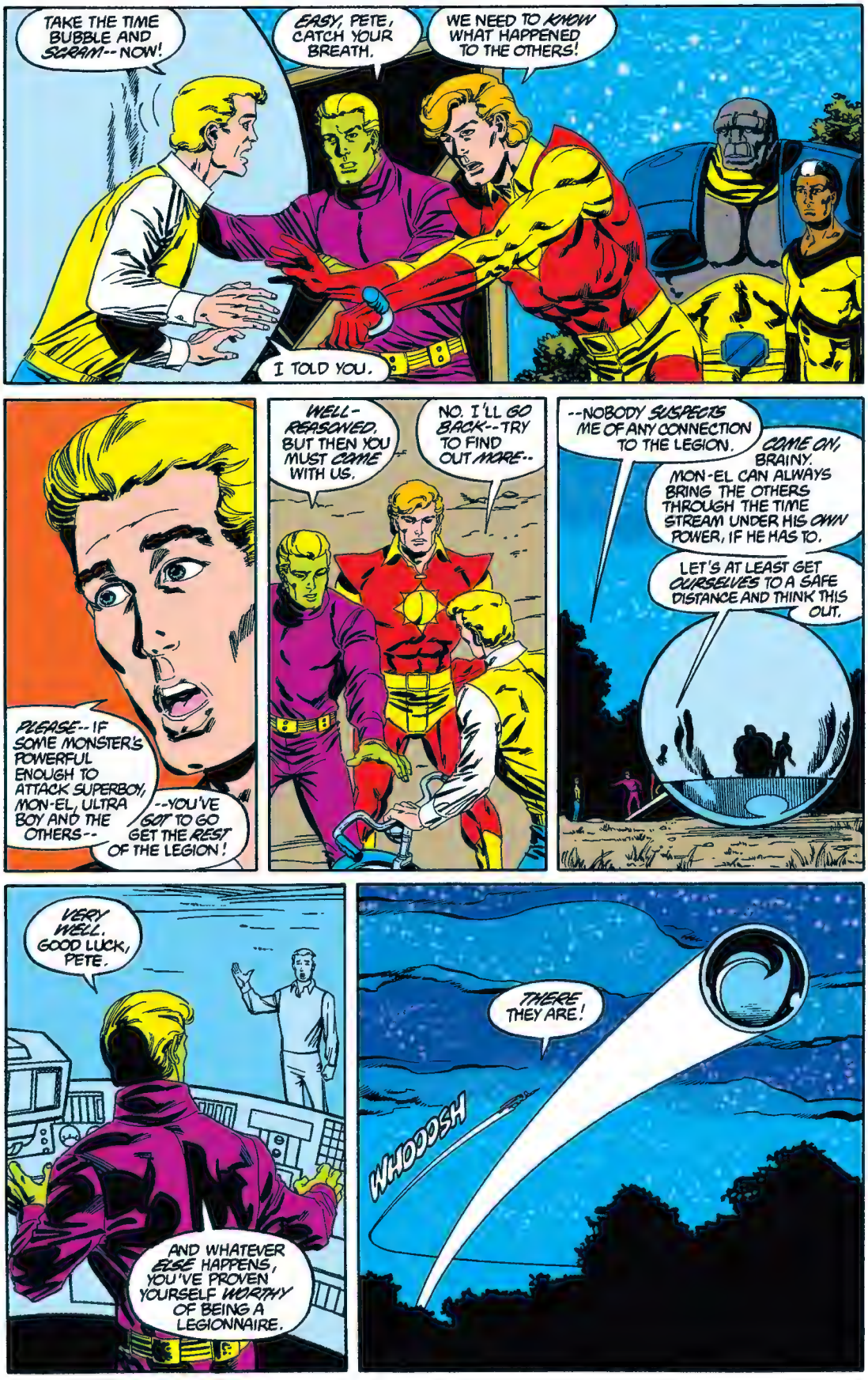
KEEP THE POTATOES MOVING, BOYS. I HAVE SOME CROSS BUNS COMING FROM THE OVEN, AND I NEED A SPOT ON THE TABLE FOR THEM TO REST.
AND PLEASE--DON'T JIGGLE THE DISHES IN THE AIR THE WAY CLARK DOES. IT GETS ME NERVOUS.
MRS. KENT, I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE SET A TABLE TO MATCH YOU.
AWWW--SHUCKS.
CLARK WILL BE HOME SOON, SO EAT UP-- YOU'RE ALL GROWING AND YOU'LL PROBABLY BE RUSHING OFF WHEN HE GETS HERE.
LOOK AT YOU, COSMIC BOY-- YOU'RE ALL GROWN SINCE THAT DAY YOU CAME HERE TO INVITE CLARK TO JOIN YOUR LEGION IN THE FUTURE.
MY, THAT WAS A PROUD DAY FOR ME.
WE HAD TO INVITE HIM, MR. KENT--
--HE WAS THE INSPIRATION FOR THE WHOLE ORGANIZATION.
HE WAS THE GREATEST HERO IN HISTORY.
YOU'RE MAKING ME BLUSH, COSMIC BOY.
SUPERBOY!
WE WERE WORRIED ABOUT YOU!
NICE TO SEE YOU, CHUM.
MMMM
ONE AT A TIME...

I KNOW YOU MUST BE HERE FOR SOMETHING IMPORTANT.
IT'S NOT OFTEN YOU GUYS COME BACK TO MY TIME ANYMORE.
WHY DON'T WE TALK ABOUT IT IN THE BASEMENT WHILE MA CLEANS UP?
I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START, SUPERBOY-- OR HOW TO EXPLAIN IT.
I GUESS OUR FIRST QUESTION IS-- ARE YOU REALLY YOU?
HUH? I CAN GIVE YOU ALL THE LEGION SIGNALS--EVEN THE SECRET HANDSHAKE--
--BUT NOBODY COULD IMPERSONATE ME WELL ENOUGH TO FOOL YOU GUYS--
--EXCEPT MAYBE MON-EL AND HE'S RIGHT HERE.
I WOULDN'T TRY.
UNFORTUNATELY, THAT'S NOT OUR PROBLEM.
YEAH. I WISH IT WAS THAT EASY.
THERE'S NOTHING YOU GUYS CAN'T HANDLE.
THE LEGION'S THE MIGHTIEST GROUP OF HEROES IN THE UNIVERSE. JUST LOOK AT ALL OF YOU!

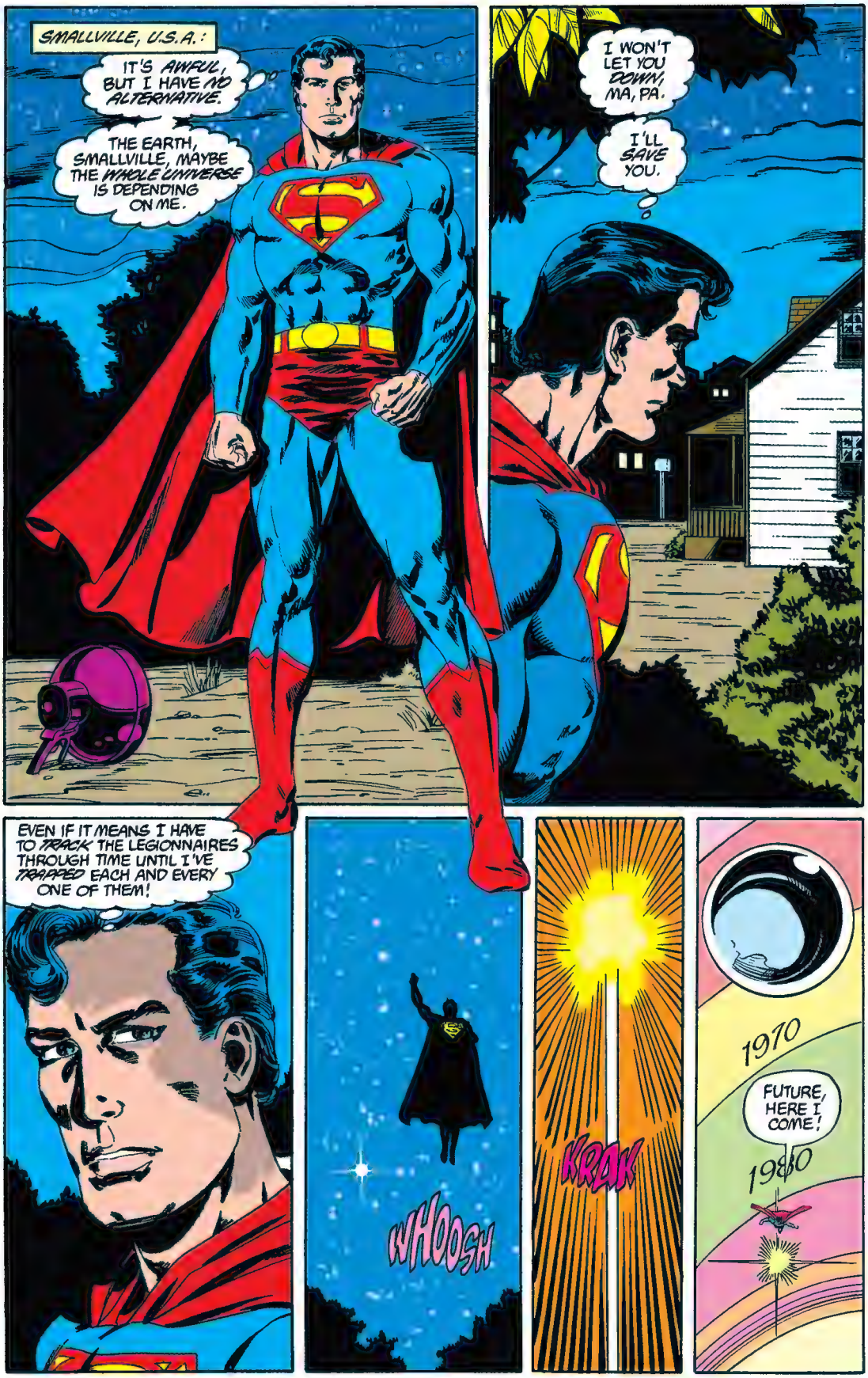
I FORGOT ABOUT THE STATUETTES.
WOW--YOU DO LOOK IMPRESSIVE ALL TOGETHER LIKE THAT.
VERY IMPRESSIVE.
WHICH IS WHY I HAVE TO DO THIS.
HUH?
WHOOSH
SORRY, MY FRIENDS.
BIZZZIIIT
HU--
I--
SU--
THERE, THAT WILL HOLD YOU.
IN TIME-STASIS YOU'RE AS FROZEN AS TV DINNERS, AND JUST AS HELPLESS.


DID YOU--DID YOU PARALYZE THEM, CLARK?
YES, PA.
THEY SAID FOUR MORE LEGIONNAIRES WERE HIDING IN THE TIME BUBBLE NEAR THE TOWN LINE?
YUP, THEY DID.
SON, ARE YOU SURE THIS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO?
IT'S THE ONLY THING I CAN DO, PA.
DON'T LET IT TROUBLE YOU-- IT'S ON MY CONSCIENCE.
HI, MRS. KENT.
WELL, HELLO, LANA DEAR.
HOW ARE YOU TONIGHT?
WHOOOPS.
ALGEBRA II
WORLD NATURE
AWFUL-- CLARK-- I'VE GOTTA HAVE YOUR HELP RIGHT NOW! MY LIFE DEPENDS ON IT!
AWW, GEE, LANA, I WASN'T FEELING TOO GOOD.
PLEASE, CLARK--
--JUST A FEW MINUTES' HELP WITH MY ALGEBRA?
ALG

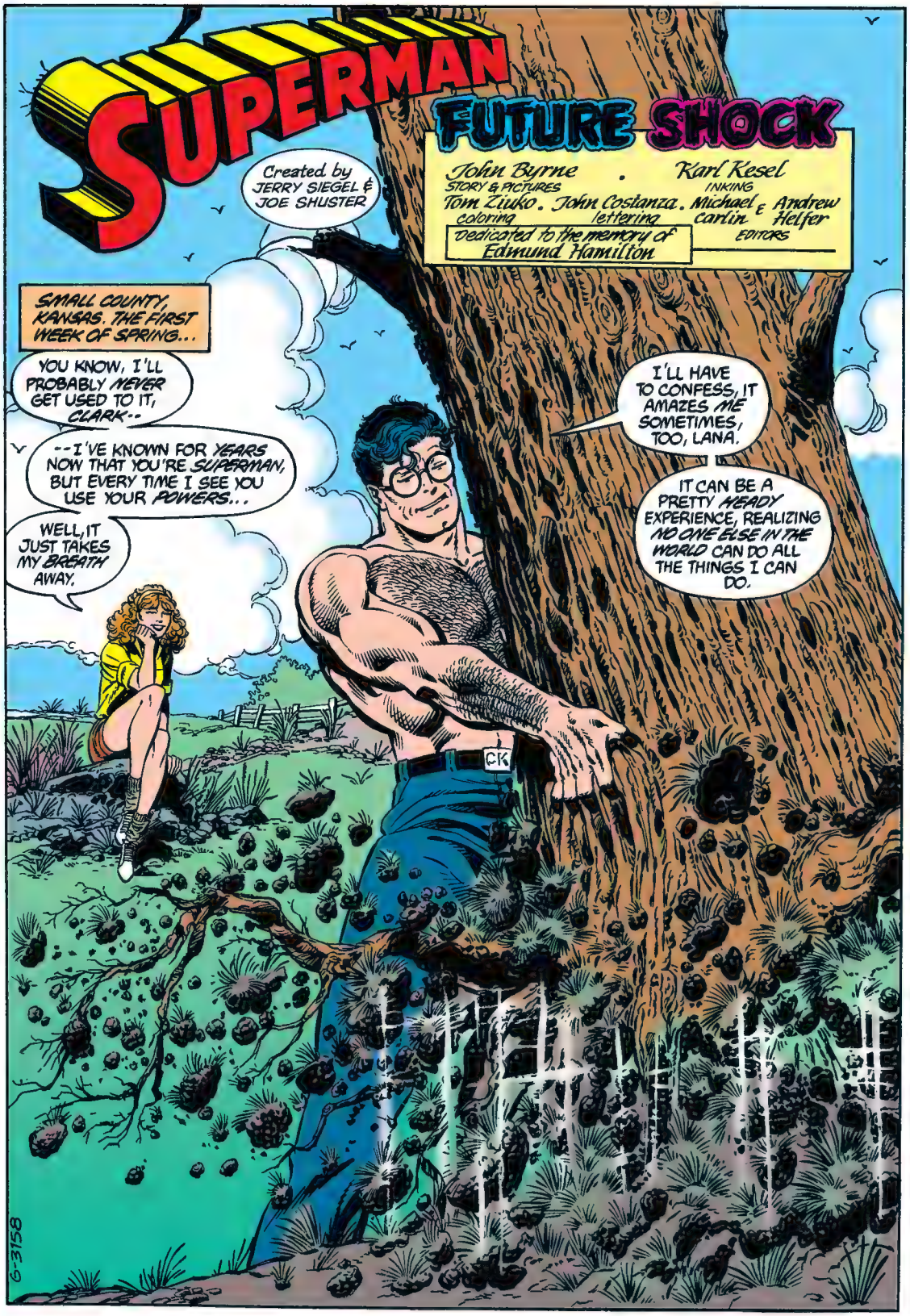

IS IT NOT TAKING TOO LONG FOR THE OTHERS TO RETURN?
YOU'VE GOT TO MAKE ALLOWANCES FOR THE TIME PERIOD, INVISIBLE KID--NO COMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORTATION.
MORE SIGNIFICANTLY, SUN BOY, THEY CAN'T USE THEIR POWERS OR THEIR FLIGHT RINGS CASUALLY.
WE DON'T WANT TO INTRUDE ON HISTORY.
TRAVELLING IN TIME SEEMS TOO DANGEROUS TO ME. I RECALL HORRORS OF THE PAST THAT WERE ONLY WORDS IN MY CLASS-ROOM--
--DISEASES LIKE BLACK PLAGUE OR SMALLPOX--INSANITIES LIKE RACIAL HATRED.
I DON'T KNOW WHICH SEEMS MORE PECULIAR TO ME.
SILICON-LIFE KNOWS NO ORGANIC DISEASE AND--
WAIT, BLOK!
THE TIME BUBBLE'S RELAYING AN EMERGENCY SIGNAL FROM COSMIC BOY'S FLIGHT RING.
SINCE MON-EL AND ULTRA BOY CAN HANDLE ANYTHING THIS SIDE OF VALIDUS, I'M AFRAID IT'S SERIOUS.
WE MUST--
RUN FOR IT, LEGIONNAIRES!
HUH? PETE ROSS!?
GO--WHILE YOU STILL CAN!
THE OTHERS WENT INTO THE KENT HOUSE--SCREAMED--AND NO ONE CAME OUT.
ULP.

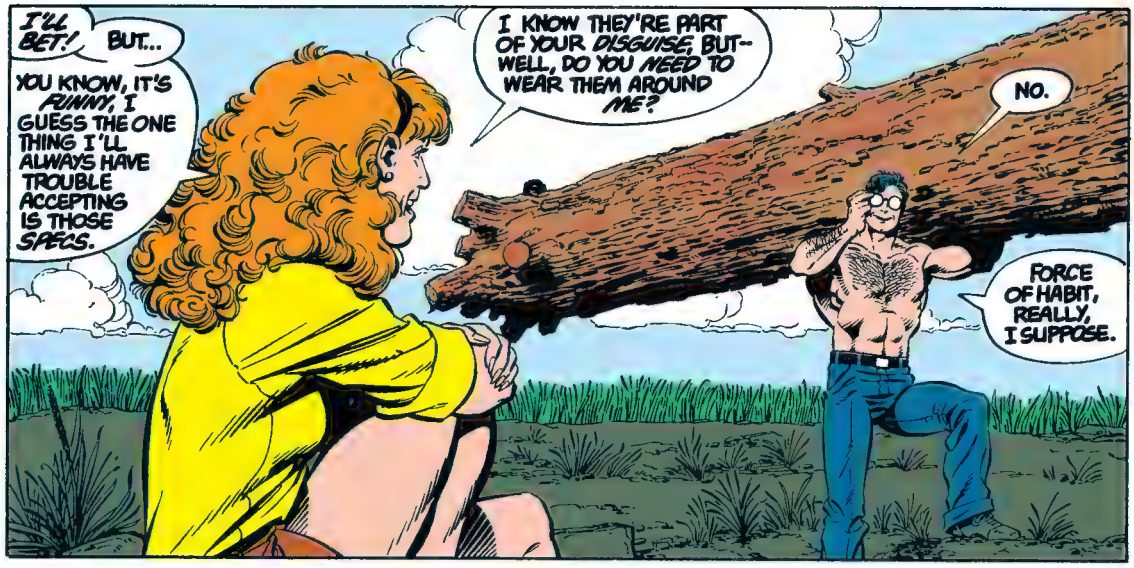

TAKE THE TIME BUBBLE AND SCRAM--NOW!
EASY, PETE, CATCH YOUR BREATH.
WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHERS!
I TOLD YOU.
PLEASE--IF SOME MONSTER'S POWERFUL ENOUGH TO ATTACK SUPERBOY, MON-EL, ULTRA BOY AND THE OTHERS--
--YOU'VE GOT TO GO GET THE REST OF THE LEGION!
WELL-REASONED. BUT THEN YOU MUST COME WITH US.
NO. I'LL GO BACK--TRY TO FIND OUT MORE--
--NOBODY SUSPECTS ME OF ANY CONNECTION TO THE LEGION.
COME ON, BRAINY. MON-EL CAN ALWAYS BRING THE OTHERS THROUGH THE TIME STREAM UNDER HIS OWN POWER, IF HE HAS TO.
LET'S AT LEAST GET OURSELVES TO A SAFE DISTANCE AND THINK THIS OUT.
VERY WELL. GOOD LUCK, PETE.
AND WHATEVER ELSE HAPPENS, YOU'VE PROVEN YOURSELF WORTHY OF BEING A LEGIONNAIRE.
THERE THEY ARE!
WHOOOSH

GOT 'EM!
BZZZTT
GREAT KRYPTON--TOO LATE! GETTING OUT OF TUTORING LANA WASTED TOO MANY MINUTES!
SUPERBOY? WAS THAT TRULY SUPERBOY BEAMING SOME SORT OF RAY AT US?
A STASIS-BEAM, ACCORDING TO OUR SENSORS--WHICH WE BARELY MISSED.
I THOUGHT WE FOUND THE REAL SMALLVILLE--BUT IF SUPERBOY WAS EVIL, IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN.
HE'S SAVED MY LIFE DOZENS OF TIMES.
WE MUST FACE THE POSSIBILITY, SUN BOY, THAT THERE IS NO PERIOD IN HISTORY THAT THE TIME TRAPPER'S TAMPERING HAS NOT TOTALLY CORRUPTED!


SMALLVILLE, U.S.A.:
IT'S AWFUL, BUT I HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE.
THE EARTH, SMALLVILLE, MAYBE THE WHOLE UNIVERSE IS DEPENDING ON ME.
I WON'T LET YOU DOWN, MA, PA.
I'LL SAVE YOU.
EVEN IF IT MEANS I HAVE TO TRACK THE LEGIONNAIRES THROUGH TIME UNTIL I'VE TRAPPED EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THEM!
WHOOSH
KRAK
1970
FUTURE, HERE I COME!
1980

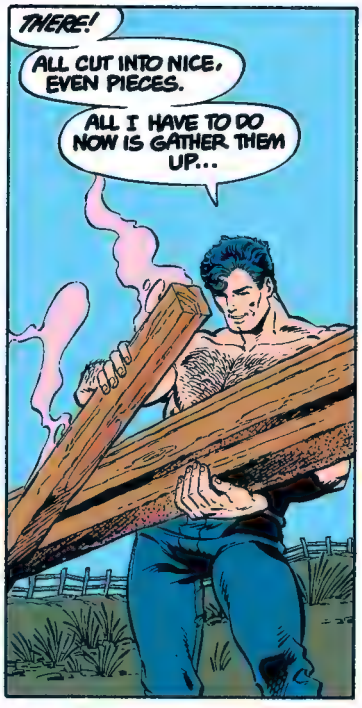
The end of time:
HAHA HAHA
I'VE GIVEN THEM ALL THEIR HEART'S DESIRES!
THE LEGION FOUND THEIR TREASURED PAST! SUPERBOY MAY HAVE HIS LITTLE WORLD SAFE--
--BUT AS SOON AS THEY TAKE THEIR GIFTS, THEY SHALL FIND THEY HAVE DESTROYED TIME ITSELF!
NOW, LET ME BRING ALL THE PLAYERS IN THE PLAY TOGETHER FOR THE FINAL ACT!
WHEN IT'S DONE, ALL WILL BE DUST--
--AND THE TIME TRAPPER SHALL RULE ETERNITY! HAHAHAHA

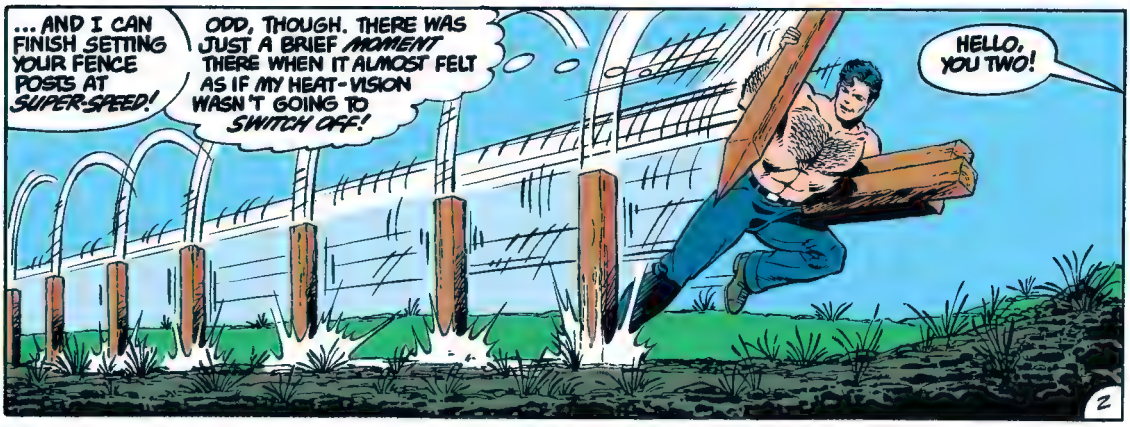

SUPERMAN
FUTURE SHOCK
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
John Byrne STORY & PICTURES . Karl Kesel INKING
Tom Ziuko coloring . John Costanza lettering . Michael Carlin & Andrew Helfer EDITORS
Dedicated to the memory of Edmund Hamilton
SMALL COUNTY, KANSAS. THE FIRST WEEK OF SPRING...
YOU KNOW, I'LL PROBABLY NEVER GET USED TO IT, CLARK--
--I'VE KNOWN FOR YEARS NOW THAT YOU'RE SUPERMAN, BUT EVERY TIME I SEE YOU USE YOUR POWERS...
WELL, IT JUST TAKES MY BREATH AWAY.
I'LL HAVE TO CONFESS, IT AMAZES ME SOMETIMES, TOO, LANA.
IT CAN BE A PRETTY HEADY EXPERIENCE, REALIZING NO ONE ELSE IN THE WORLD CAN DO ALL THE THINGS I CAN DO.
CK
6-3158

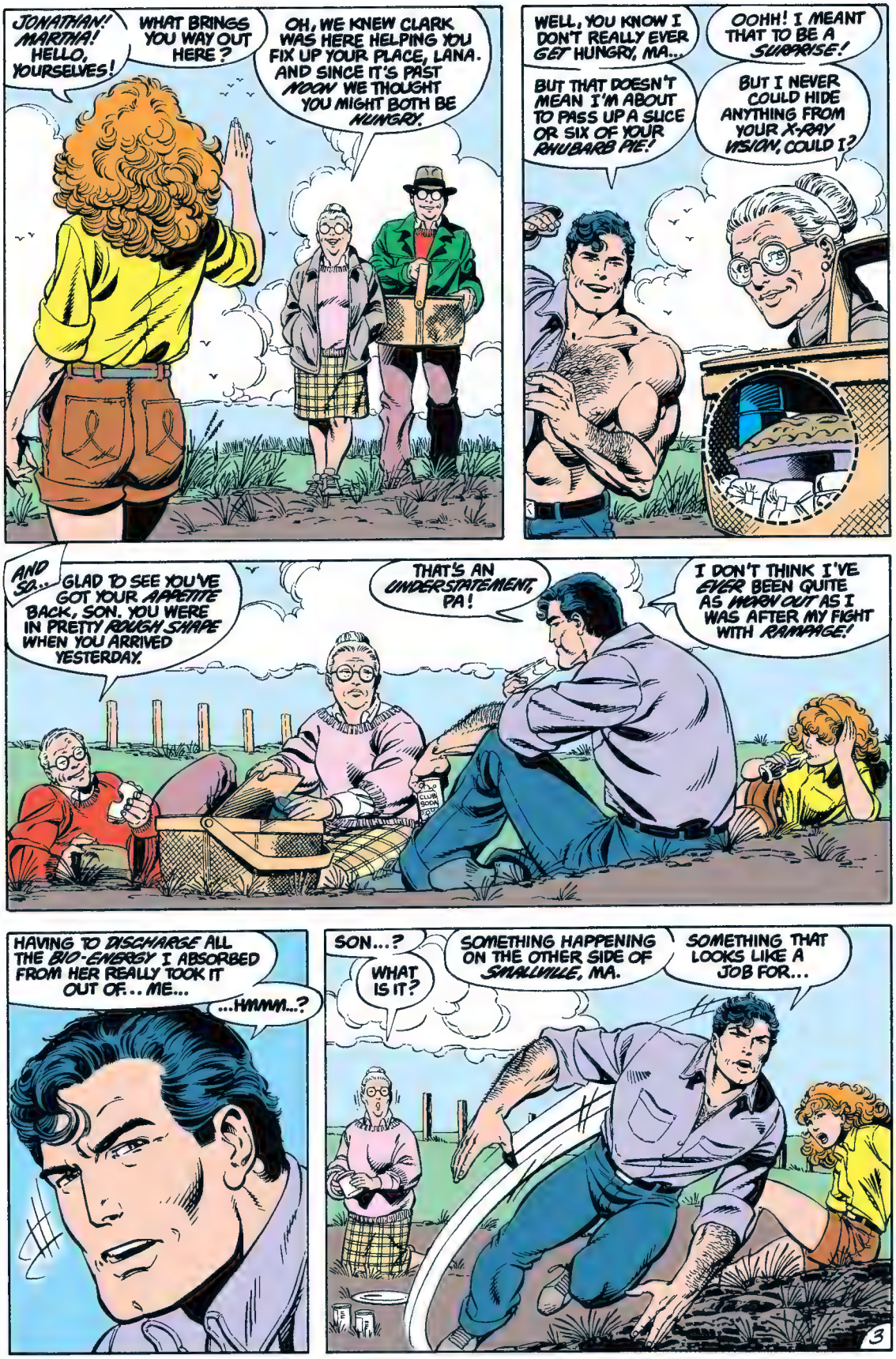

I'LL BET!
BUT...
YOU KNOW, IT'S FUNNY, I GUESS THE ONE THING I'LL ALWAYS HAVE TROUBLE ACCEPTING IS THOSE SPECS.
I KNOW THEY'RE PART OF YOUR DISGUISE, BUT-- WELL, DO YOU NEED TO WEAR THEM AROUND ME?
NO.
FORCE OF HABIT, REALLY, I SUPPOSE.

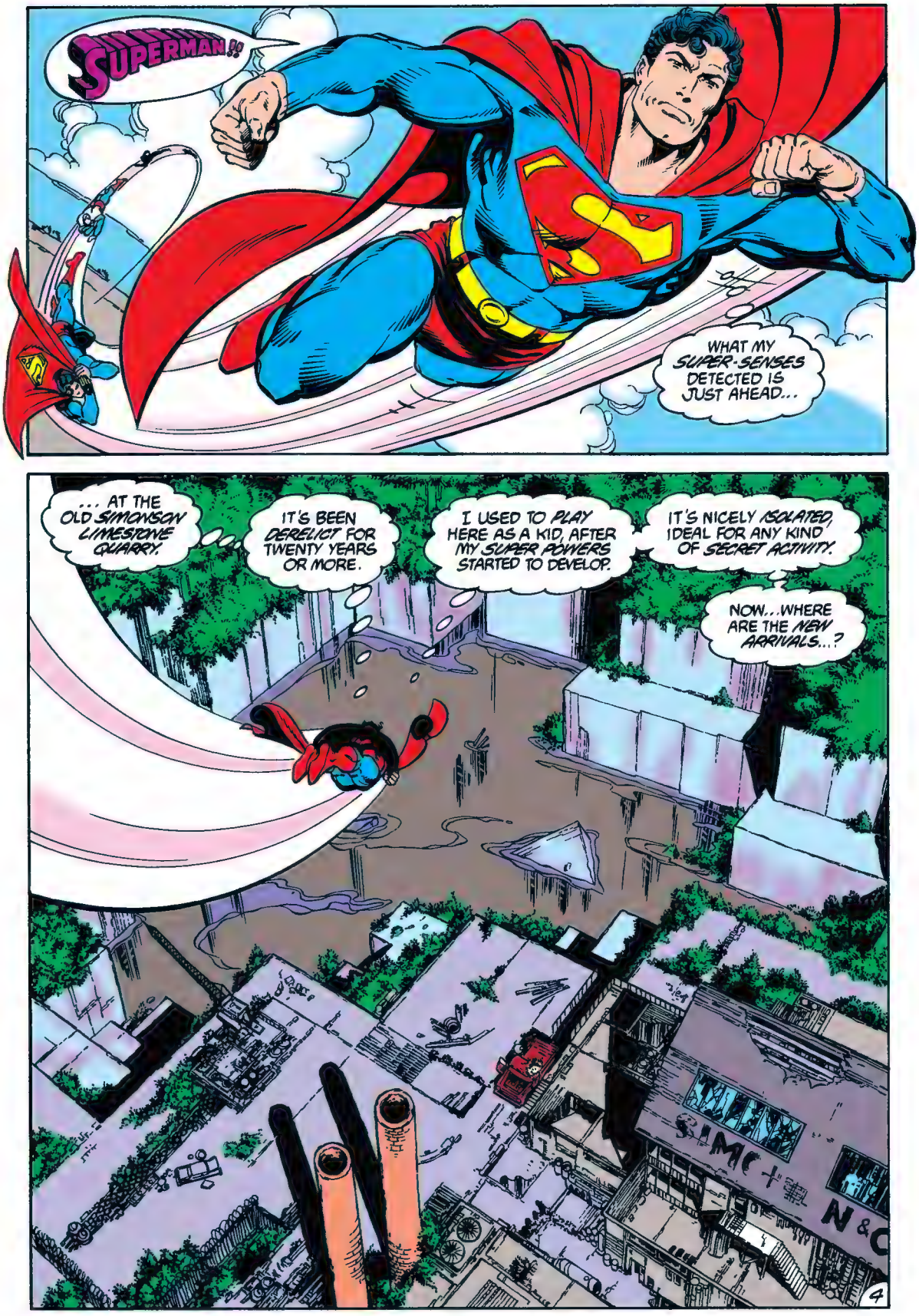
SINCE MA AND PA HELPED ME DESIGN THE LOOK FOR MY CIVILIAN IDENTITY, I'VE WORN PA'S HAND-ME-DOWN GLASSES ALMOST CONSTANTLY.
SO, EVEN THOUGH I HAVE PERFECT VISION...
I FEEL A LITTLE STRANGE WITHOUT 'EM.

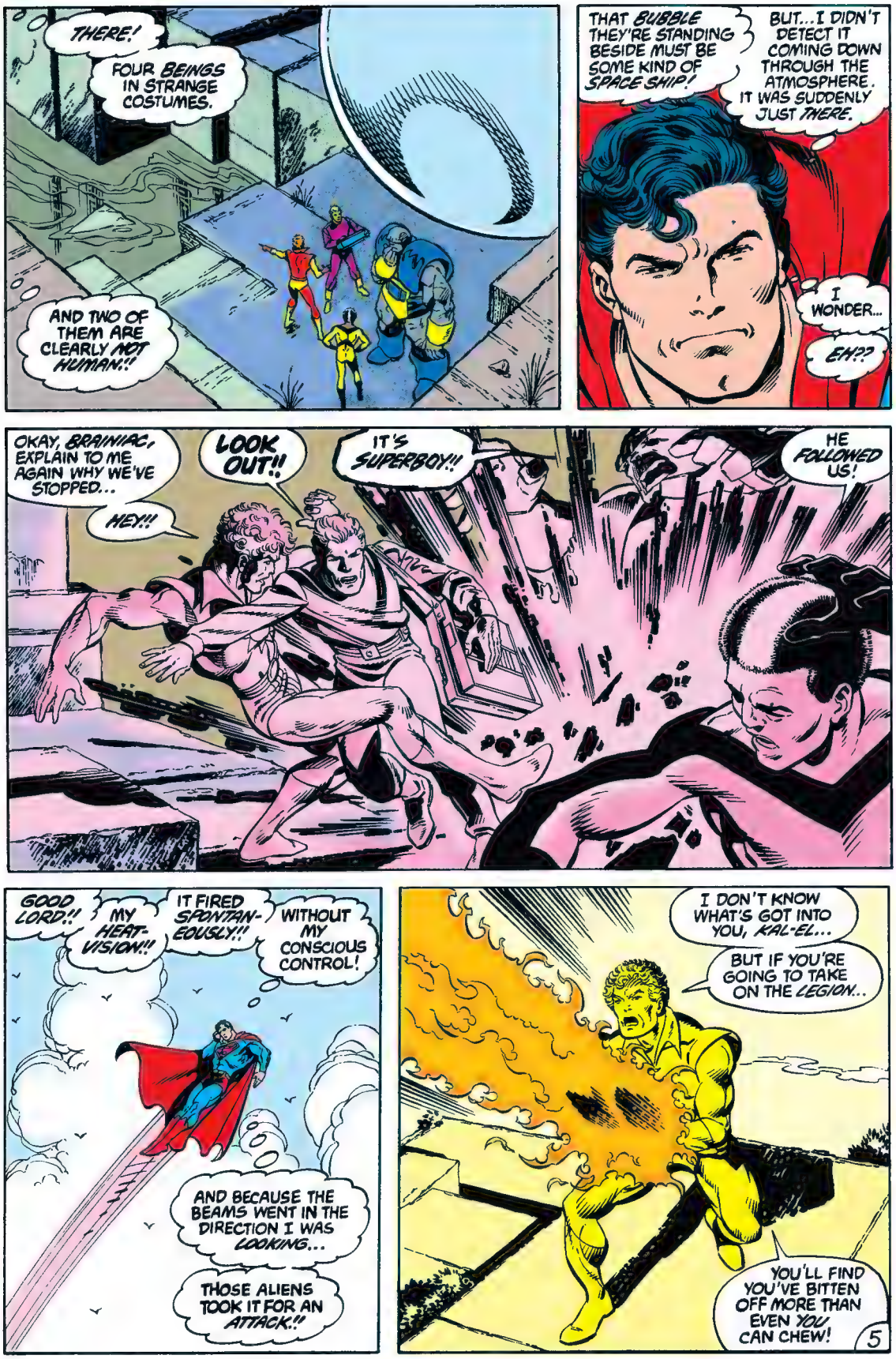
BUT... I HAD TO TAKE THEM OFF NOW. ANYWAY.
BECAUSE I WANT TO USE MY HEAT-VISION TO SLICE UP THIS TREE-- AND THAT WOULD MELT THE LENSES.


THERE!
ALL CUT INTO NICE, EVEN PIECES.
ALL I HAVE TO DO NOW IS GATHER THEM UP...


...AND I CAN FINISH SETTING YOUR FENCE POSTS AT SUPER-SPEED!
ODD, THOUGH. THERE WAS JUST A BRIEF MOMENT THERE WHEN IT ALMOST FELT AS IF MY HEAT-VISION WASN'T GOING TO SWITCH OFF!
HELLO, YOU TWO!
2


JONATHAN! MARTHA! HELLO, YOURSELVES!
WHAT BRINGS YOU WAY OUT HERE?
OH, WE KNEW CLARK WAS HERE HELPING YOU FIX UP YOUR PLACE, LANA. AND SINCE IT'S PAST NOON WE THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BOTH BE HUNGRY.
WELL, YOU KNOW I DON'T REALLY EVER GET HUNGRY, MA...
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'M ABOUT TO PASS UP A SLICE OR SIX OF YOUR RHUBARB PIE!
OOHH! I MEANT THAT TO BE A SURPRISE!
BUT I NEVER COULD HIDE ANYTHING FROM YOUR X-RAY VISION, COULD I?
AND SO...
GLAD TO SEE YOU'VE GOT YOUR APPETITE BACK, SON. YOU WERE IN PRETTY ROUGH SHAPE WHEN YOU ARRIVED YESTERDAY.
THAT'S AN UNDERSTATEMENT, PA!
I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER BEEN QUITE AS MORN OUT AS I WAS AFTER MY FIGHT WITH RAMPAGE!
HAVING TO DISCHARGE ALL THE BIO-ENERGY I ABSORBED FROM HER REALLY TOOK IT OUT OF... ME...
...HMMM...?
SON...?
WHAT IS IT?
SOMETHING HAPPENING ON THE OTHER SIDE OF SMALLVILLE, MA.
SOMETHING THAT LOOKS LIKE A JOB FOR...
3

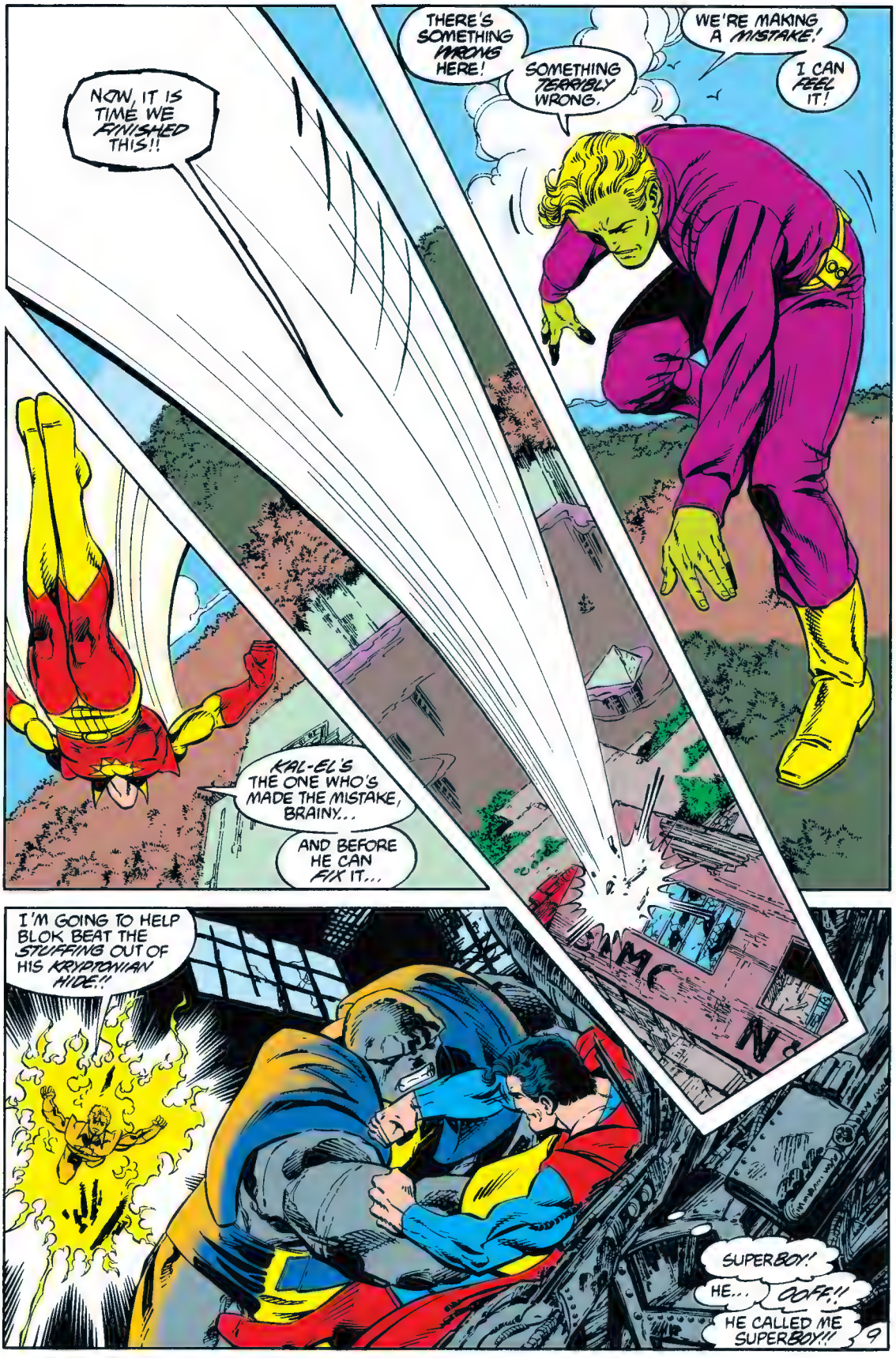

SUPERMAN!!
WHAT MY SUPER-SENSES DETECTED IS JUST AHEAD...
... AT THE OLD SIMONSON LIMESTONE QUARRY.
IT'S BEEN DERELICT FOR TWENTY YEARS OR MORE.
I USED TO PLAY HERE AS A KID, AFTER MY SUPER POWERS STARTED TO DEVELOP.
IT'S NICELY ISOLATED, IDEAL FOR ANY KIND OF SECRET ACTIVITY.
NOW...WHERE ARE THE NEW ARRIVALS...?
4


THERE!
FOUR BEINGS IN STRANGE COSTUMES.
AND TWO OF THEM ARE CLEARLY NOT HUMAN!!
THAT BUBBLE THEY'RE STANDING BESIDE MUST BE SOME KIND OF SPACE SHIP!
BUT...I DIDN'T DETECT IT COMING DOWN THROUGH THE ATMOSPHERE. IT WAS SUDDENLY JUST THERE.
I WONDER...
EH??
OKAY, BRAINIAC, EXPLAIN TO ME AGAIN WHY WE'VE STOPPED...
HEY!!
LOOK OUT!!
IT'S SUPERBOY!!
HE FOLLOWED US!
GOOD LORD!!
MY HEAT-VISION!!
IT FIRED SPONTANEOUSLY!!
WITHOUT MY CONSCIOUS CONTROL!
AND BECAUSE THE BEAMS WENT IN THE DIRECTION I WAS LOOKING...
THOSE ALIENS TOOK IT FOR AN ATTACK!!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOT INTO YOU, KAL-EL...
BUT IF YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE ON THE LEGION...
YOU'LL FIND YOU'VE BITTEN OFF MORE THAN EVEN YOU CAN CHEW!
5

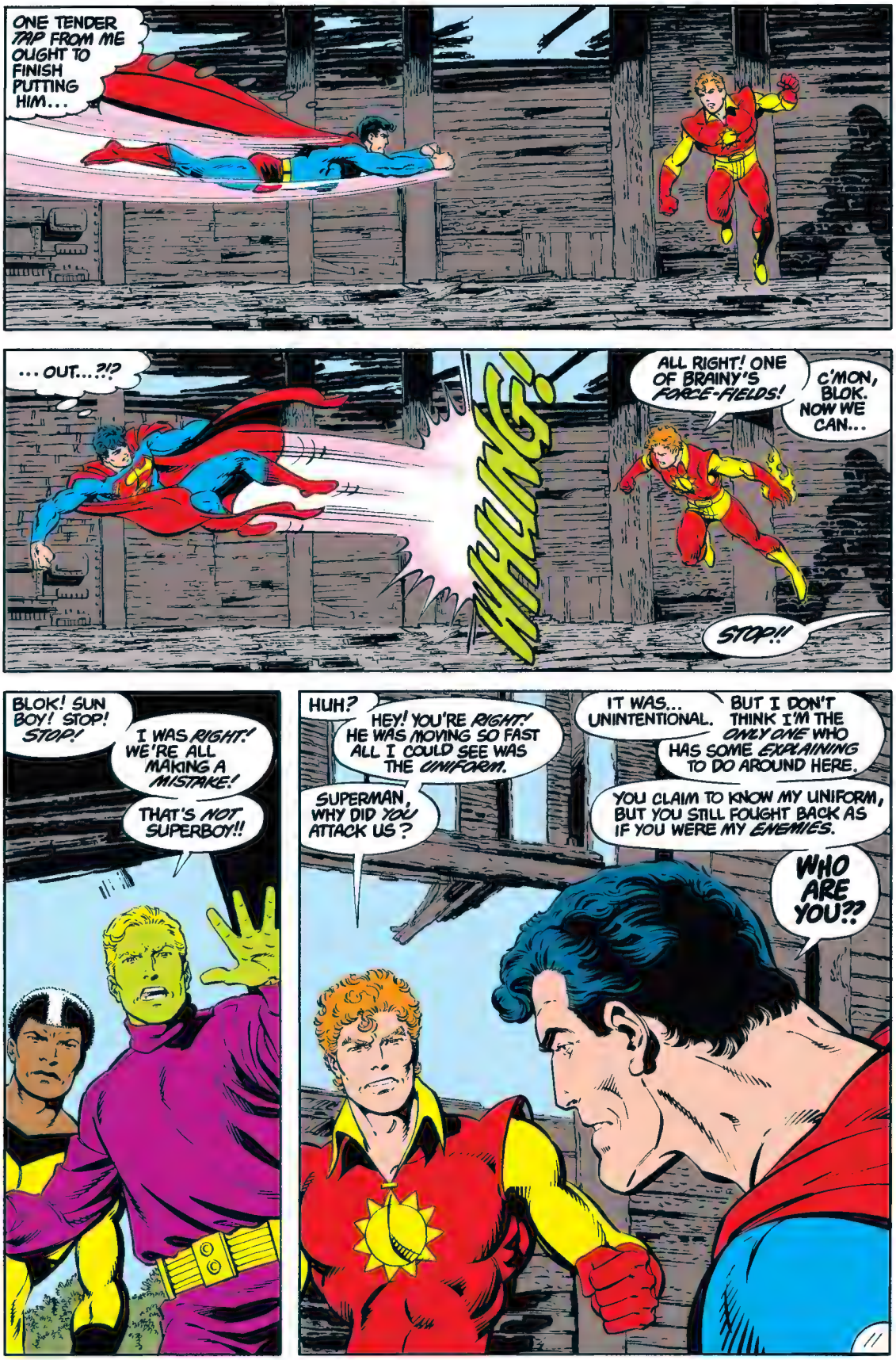
THAT HEAT!!!
IT'S LIKE FLYING TOO CLOSE TO THE SUN!!
NO ONE I KNOW HAS POWERS LIKE THAT!
WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE??
THEY ALL LOOK SO YOUNG!
SUN BOY, WAIT!!
SUPERBOY HAS BEEN OUR ALLY FOR TOO MANY YEARS!
HE CAN'T HAVE TURNED ON US!
THERE HAS TO BE SOME LOGICAL EXPLANATION FOR ALL THIS!!
TELL THAT TO THE ONES WE LEFT BEHIND, BRAINY. PETE ROSS SAID SUPERBOY ATTACKED THEM!
MAYBE DESTROYED THEM!!
IT SEEMS HE HAS FOLLOWED US THROUGH TIME!
LOOK!
HE IS CIRCLING BACK!!
KRAK!
6

THE BIG ONE TORE UP THAT BLOCK OF LIMESTONE AS IF IT WERE STYROFOAM!
IF I TRY TO DODGE IT ITS TRAJECTORY WILL CARRY IT INTO THE MIDDLE OF SMALLVILLE.
SO... I WON'T DODGE!
BLOK'S MOVE DISTRACTED HIM.
C'MON, ALL OF YOU! WE'VE GOT TO PRESS OUR ADVANTAGE IF WE'VE ANY HOPE OF DEFEATING KAL-EL.
RIGHT WITH YOU, SUN BOY.
THEY CAN FLY, TOO!
EVEN THE BIG ONE!
COMING AT ME IN WIDENING ARCS.
TRYING TO BRACKET ME.
7

ALL RIGHT...
I KNOW WHAT THE BIG GUY AND THE RED-HEAD CAN DO.
THAT LEAVES TWO UNACCOUNTED FOR.
THE BLACK KID SEEMS TO BE SWINGING IN THE CLOSEST...
I'LL JUST...
WHAT THE...?!?
YOU ARE SLIPPING, SUPERBOY.
OR DID YOU FORGET WHY JACQUES IS CALLED THE INVISIBLE KID?
OOMF!
UNGH!!
WHAT--WHAT DID HE CALL ME??
8

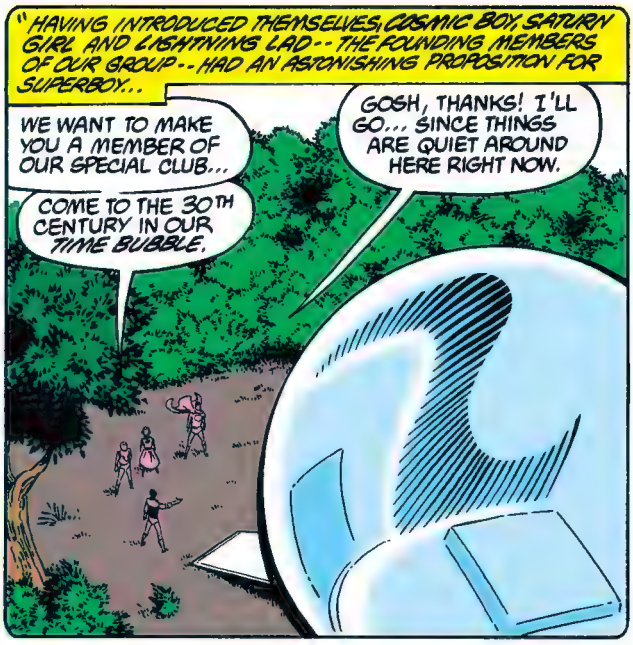

NOW, IT IS TIME WE FINISHED THIS!!
THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG HERE!
SOMETHING TERRIBLY WRONG.
WE'RE MAKING A MISTAKE!
I CAN FEEL IT!
KAL-EL'S THE ONE WHO'S MADE THE MISTAKE, BRAINY...
AND BEFORE HE CAN FIX IT...
I'M GOING TO HELP BLOK BEAT THE STUFFING OUT OF HIS KRYPTONIAN HIDE!!
SUPERBOY!
HE... OOFF!!
HE CALLED ME SUPERBOY!!!
9

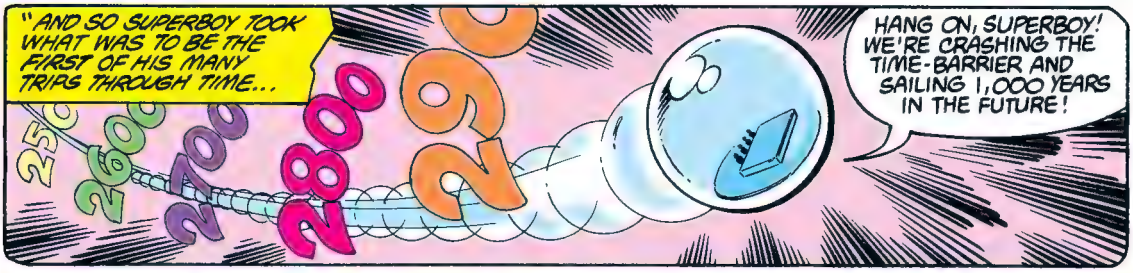
I MET A KID WHO CALLED HIMSELF SUPERBOY A FEW MONTHS AGO. *
BUT HE WENT OFF INTO LIMBO AT THE END OF THE CRISIS.
AND IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE HE WAS AROUND LONG ENOUGH TO HAVE MADE THIS PACK OF ENEMIES.
KRAK
HE IS... RECOVERING. YET... HE SEEMS NOT TO BE AS STRONG AS I REMEMBER...
* The sole survivor of EARTH PRIME, one of the parallel worlds destroyed during the CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS.
BLOK! STAND CLEAR!
I'M GOING TO HIT HIM WITH MY FULL INTENSITY BLAST!
THE SHOCK TO HIS SYSTEM SHOULD STUN HIM!
SSSSHKT
ALWAYS ASSUMING YOU CAN HIT ME, CURLY-LOCKS.
GOT TO BE CAREFUL.
THAT BLAST FELT A THOUSAND TIMES HOTTER THAN THE FIRST ONE HE THREW AT ME.
I DON'T KNOW IF MY INVULNERABILITY IS UP TO STOPPING IT.
HMMM...
LOOKS LIKE THAT BLAST REALLY TOOK THE WIND OUT OF HIS SAILS.
10

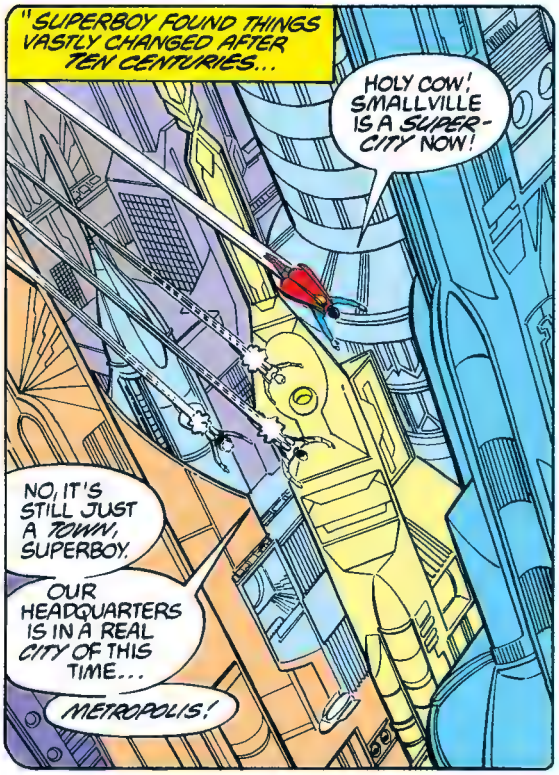

ONE TENDER TAP FROM ME OUGHT TO FINISH PUTTING HIM...
...OUT...?!?
WHUNG!
ALL RIGHT! ONE OF BRAINY'S FORCE-FIELDS!
C'MON, BLOK. NOW WE CAN...
STOP!!
BLOK! SUN BOY! STOP! STOP!
I WAS RIGHT! WE'RE ALL MAKING A MISTAKE!
THAT'S NOT SUPERBOY!!
HUH?
HEY! YOU'RE RIGHT! HE WAS MOVING SO FAST ALL I COULD SEE WAS THE UNIFORM.
SUPERMAN, WHY DID YOU ATTACK US?
IT WAS... UNINTENTIONAL.
BUT I DON'T THINK I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS SOME EXPLAINING TO DO AROUND HERE.
YOU CLAIM TO KNOW MY UNIFORM, BUT YOU STILL FOUGHT BACK AS IF YOU WERE MY ENEMIES.
WHO ARE YOU??

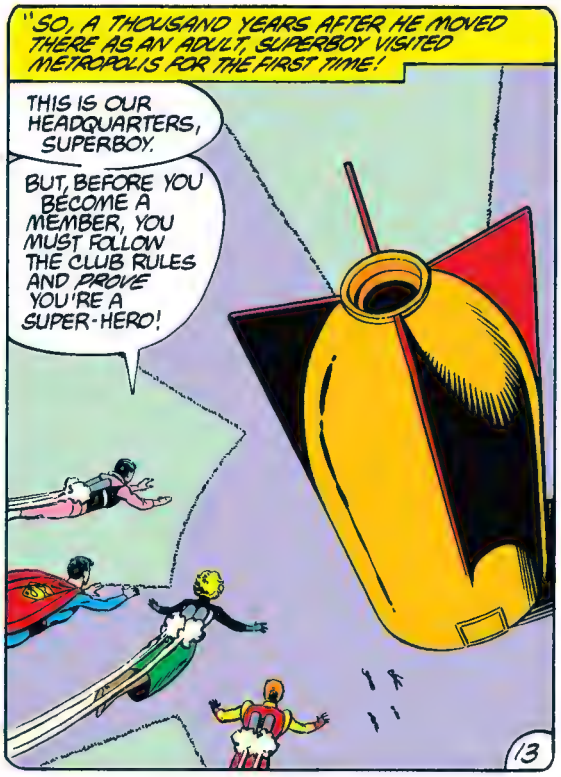
HE...HE REALLY DOES NOT KNOW US? HOW CAN THAT BE, IF HE IS REALLY SUPERMAN?
I'M AFRAID IT'S ONLY TO BE EXPECTED BLOK. AT LEAST, IF THE THEORY I'M FORMULATING IS CORRECT.
WE ARE MEMBERS OF THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES, SUPERMAN.
WE COME FROM THE THIRTIETH CENTURY!
WHAT?!?
I KNOW. YOU FIND MY STATEMENT ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO BELIEVE.
PERHAPS IT WILL HELP IF I TELL YOU A STORY.
"A STORY THAT BEGINS SOME FEW YEARS AGO, AS YOUNG CLARK KENT RECEIVED A SUDDEN SHOCK...
HELLO, SUPERBOY!
YOU..., ER... THINK I'M SUPERBOY?
THAT IS A GOOD ONE! HA, HA!
"THEN, MINUTES LATER AS SUPERBOY FLEW HIS REGULAR PATROL OVER SMALLVILLE...
HI, CLARK KENT!
OMIGOSH! ANOTHER BOY WHO SEEMS TO KNOW MY SECRET! I-I'LL PRETEND TO IGNORE HIM AS IF HE'S WRONG!
"BUT BEFORE LONG SUPERBOY WAS REALLY OVERWHELMED...
SUPERBOY! GIVE MY REGARDS TO MR. AND MRS. KENT, YOUR FOSTER PARENTS!
GREAT GUNS! A GIRL, TOO! DOES EVERYBODY KNOW THE TRUTH?
"BUT THE MYSTERY WAS SOON REVEALED FOR THE INNOCENT PRANK IT WAS...
YOU SEE, WE'RE FROM THE FUTURE! NATURALLY WE KNOW YOUR LIFE STORY FROM HISTORICAL RECORDS!
SO THAT'S IT! WHAT A RELIEF THAT MY SECRET IDENTITY IS STILL SAFE HERE IN SMALLVILLE!
COSMIC BOY
SATURN GIRL
LIGHTNING LAD
HISTORICAL NOTE: This sequence is adapted from the story which first appeared in ADVENTURE COMICS # 247-- April 1958
12

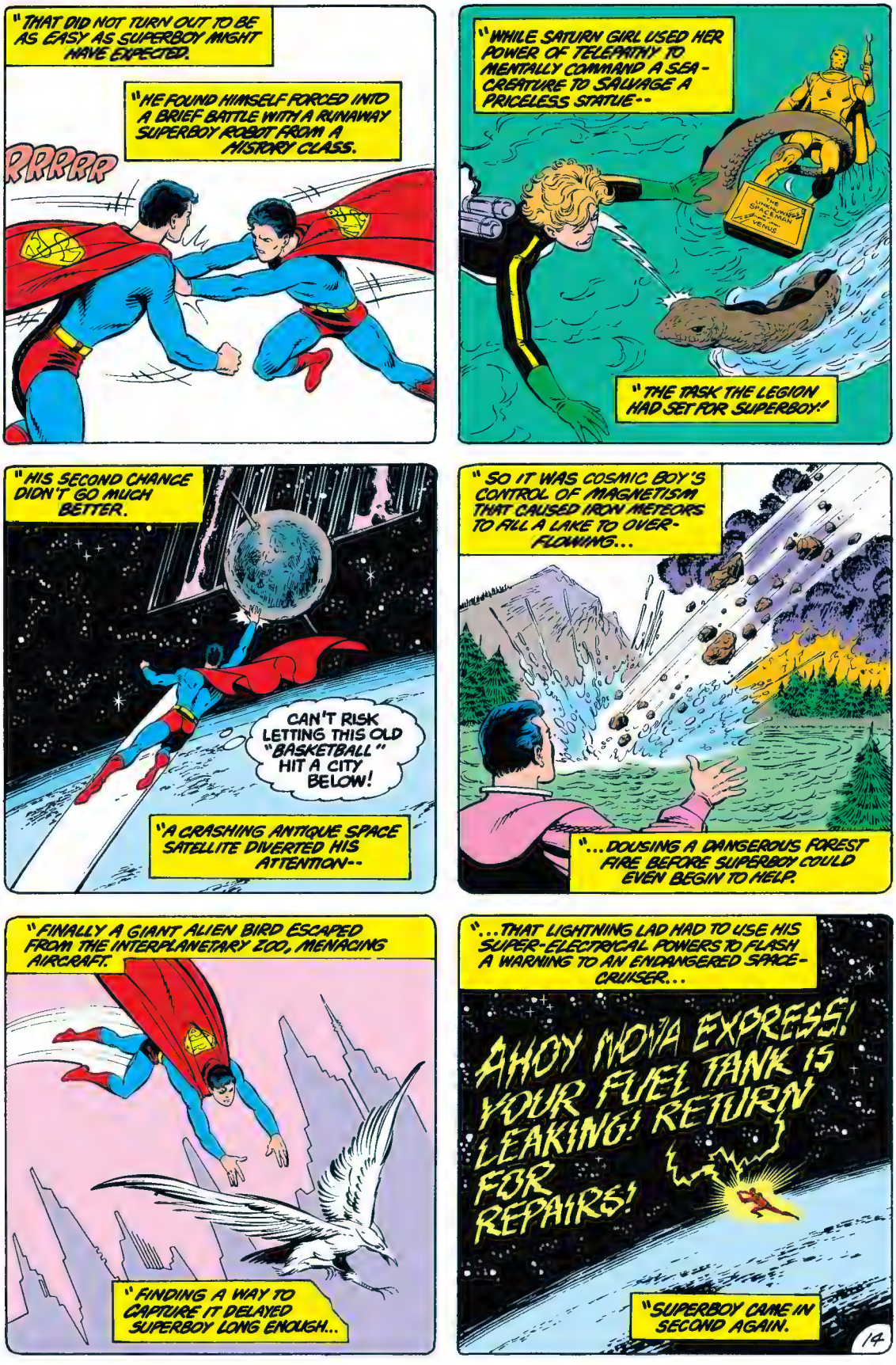
NOW WAIT A MINUTE!
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU DISCOVERED I'M REALLY CLARK KENT...
BUT THE REST OF YOUR TALE DOESN'T HOLD WATER!
I'VE NEVER BEEN CALLED "SUPERBOY."
AND YOU NEVER EXPERIENCED THE EVENTS I'VE DESCRIBED, I KNOW.
BUT BEAR WITH ME, SUPERMAN. I ASSURE YOU YOUR CONFUSION IS NO GREATER THAN OURS!


"HAVING INTRODUCED THEMSELVES, COSMIC BOY, SATURN GIRL AND LIGHTNING LAD -- THE FOUNDING MEMBERS OF OUR GROUP -- HAD AN ASTONISHING PROPOSITION FOR SUPERBOY...
WE WANT TO MAKE YOU A MEMBER OF OUR SPECIAL CLUB...
COME TO THE 30TH CENTURY IN OUR TIME BUBBLE.
GOSH, THANKS! I'LL GO... SINCE THINGS ARE QUIET AROUND HERE RIGHT NOW.


"AND SO SUPERBOY TOOK WHAT WAS TO BE THE FIRST OF HIS MANY TRIPS THROUGH TIME...
2500
2600
2700
2800
2900
HANG ON, SUPERBOY! WE'RE CRASHING THE TIME-BARRIER AND SAILING 1,000 YEARS IN THE FUTURE!

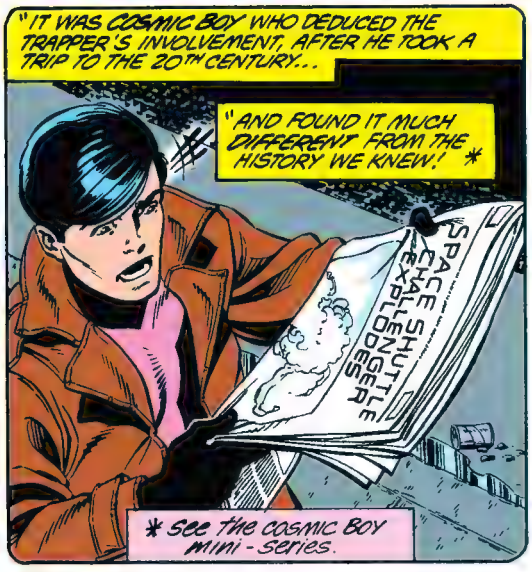

"SUPERBOY FOUND THINGS VASTLY CHANGED AFTER TEN CENTURIES...
HOLY COW! SMALLVILLE IS A SUPER-CITY NOW!
NO, IT'S STILL JUST A TOWN, SUPERBOY.
OUR HEADQUARTERS IS IN A REAL CITY OF THIS TIME...
METROPOLIS!

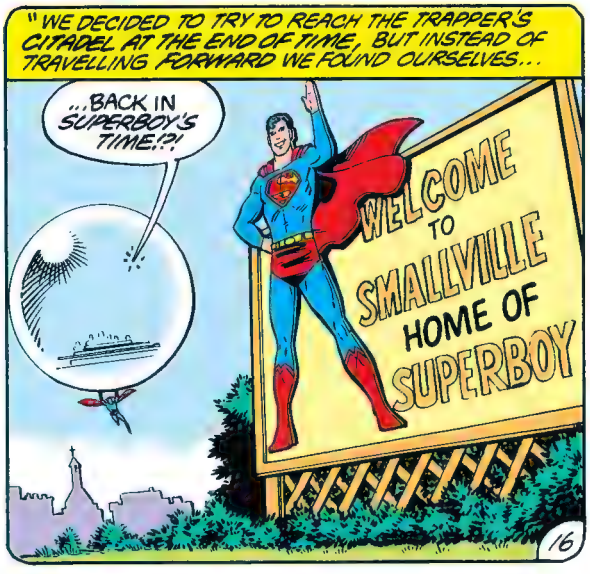

"SO, A THOUSAND YEARS AFTER HE MOVED THERE AS AN ADULT, SUPERBOY VISITED METROPOLIS FOR THE FIRST TIME!
THIS IS OUR HEADQUARTERS, SUPERBOY.
BUT, BEFORE YOU BECOME A MEMBER, YOU MUST FOLLOW THE CLUB RULES AND PROVE YOU'RE A SUPER-HERO!
13

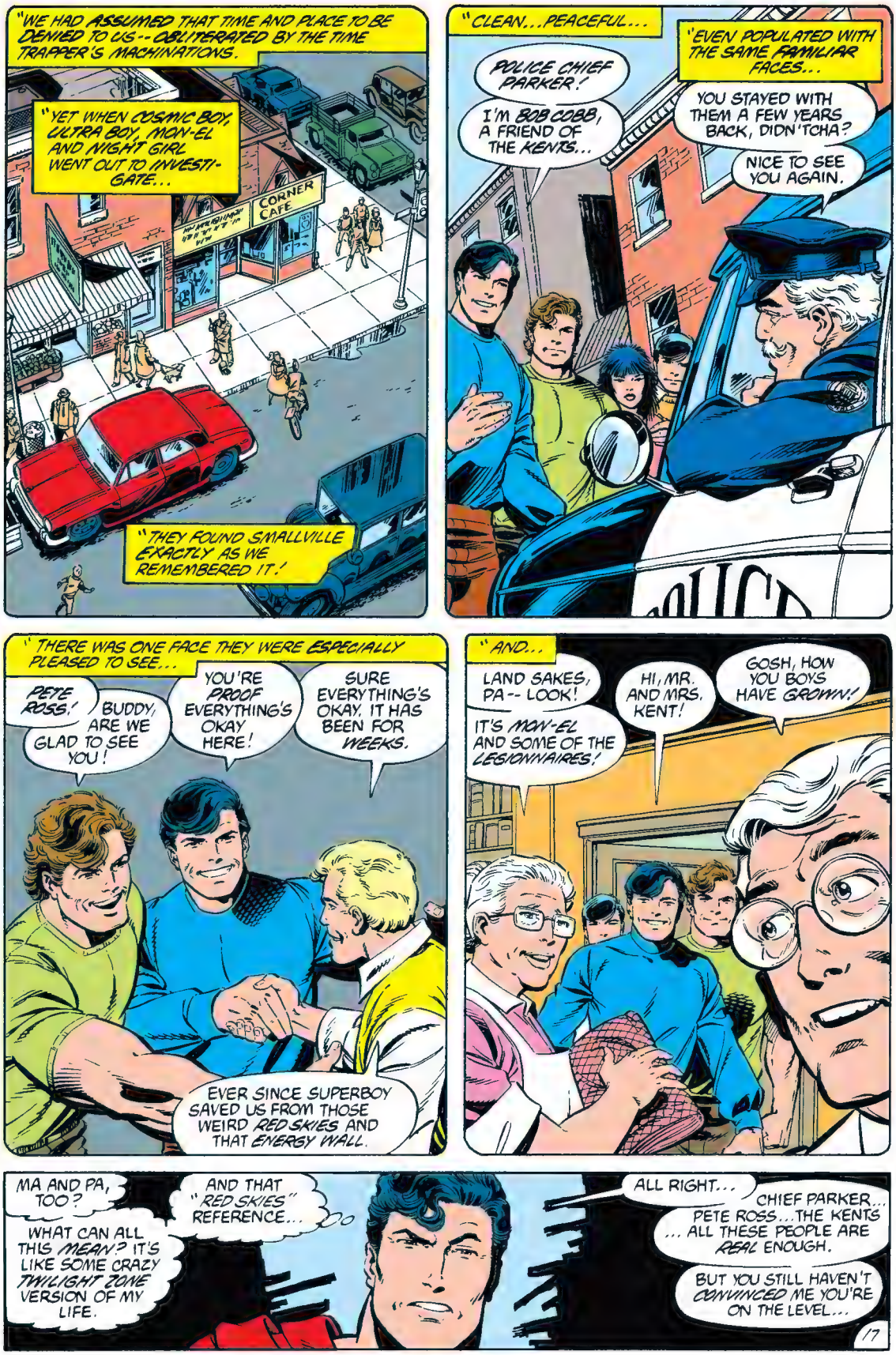

"THAT DID NOT TURN OUT TO BE AS EASY AS SUPERBOY MIGHT HAVE EXPECTED.
"HE FOUND HIMSELF FORCED INTO A BRIEF BATTLE WITH A RUNAWAY SUPERBOY ROBOT FROM A HISTORY CLASS.
RRRRR
"WHILE SATURN GIRL USED HER POWER OF TELEPATHY TO MENTALLY COMMAND A SEA-CREATURE TO SALVAGE A PRICELESS STATUE--
"THE TASK THE LEGION HAD SET FOR SUPERBOY!
"HIS SECOND CHANCE DIDN'T GO MUCH BETTER.
CAN'T RISK LETTING THIS OLD "BASKETBALL" HIT A CITY BELOW!
"A CRASHING ANTIQUE SPACE SATELLITE DIVERTED HIS ATTENTION--
"SO IT WAS COSMIC BOY'S CONTROL OF MAGNETISM THAT CAUSED IRON METEORS TO FILL A LAKE TO OVER-FLOWING...
"...DOUSING A DANGEROUS FOREST FIRE BEFORE SUPERBOY COULD EVEN BEGIN TO HELP.
"FINALLY A GIANT ALIEN BIRD ESCAPED FROM THE INTERPLANETARY ZOO, MENACING AIRCRAFT.
"FINDING A WAY TO CAPTURE IT DELAYED SUPERBOY LONG ENOUGH...
"...THAT LIGHTNING LAD HAD TO USE HIS SUPER-ELECTRICAL POWERS TO FLASH A WARNING TO AN ENDANGERED SPACE-CRUISER...
AHOY NOVA EXPRESS! YOUR FUEL TANK IS LEAKING! RETURN FOR REPAIRS!
"SUPERBOY CAME IN SECOND AGAIN.
14

"AND SO... THREE TIMES YOU FAILED IN THE CONTEST, SUPERBOY. SORRY, BUT WE REJECT YOU FROM THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES!
GULP! IF I TELL THEM WHAT DELAYED ME EACH TIME, THEY'LL THINK I'M JUST MAKING EXCUSES!
WELL... SO LONG! NO HARD FEELINGS ON MY PART!
"BUT... WAIT, SUPERBOY! WE DELIBERATELY DELAYED YOU DURING EACH TEST. IT WAS PART OF YOUR INITIATION!
HOORAY FOR SUPERBOY, OUR NEW MEMBER!!
"AND SO SUPERBOY WAS INDUCTED INTO THE LEGION.
"AND EVEN AS OUR MEMBERSHIP GREW AND GREW, YOU... I MEAN, HE REMAINED ONE OF OUR MOST VALUED AND HEROIC ALLIES!
15
JOHN 'N' KARL after GIFFEN 'N' LARRY

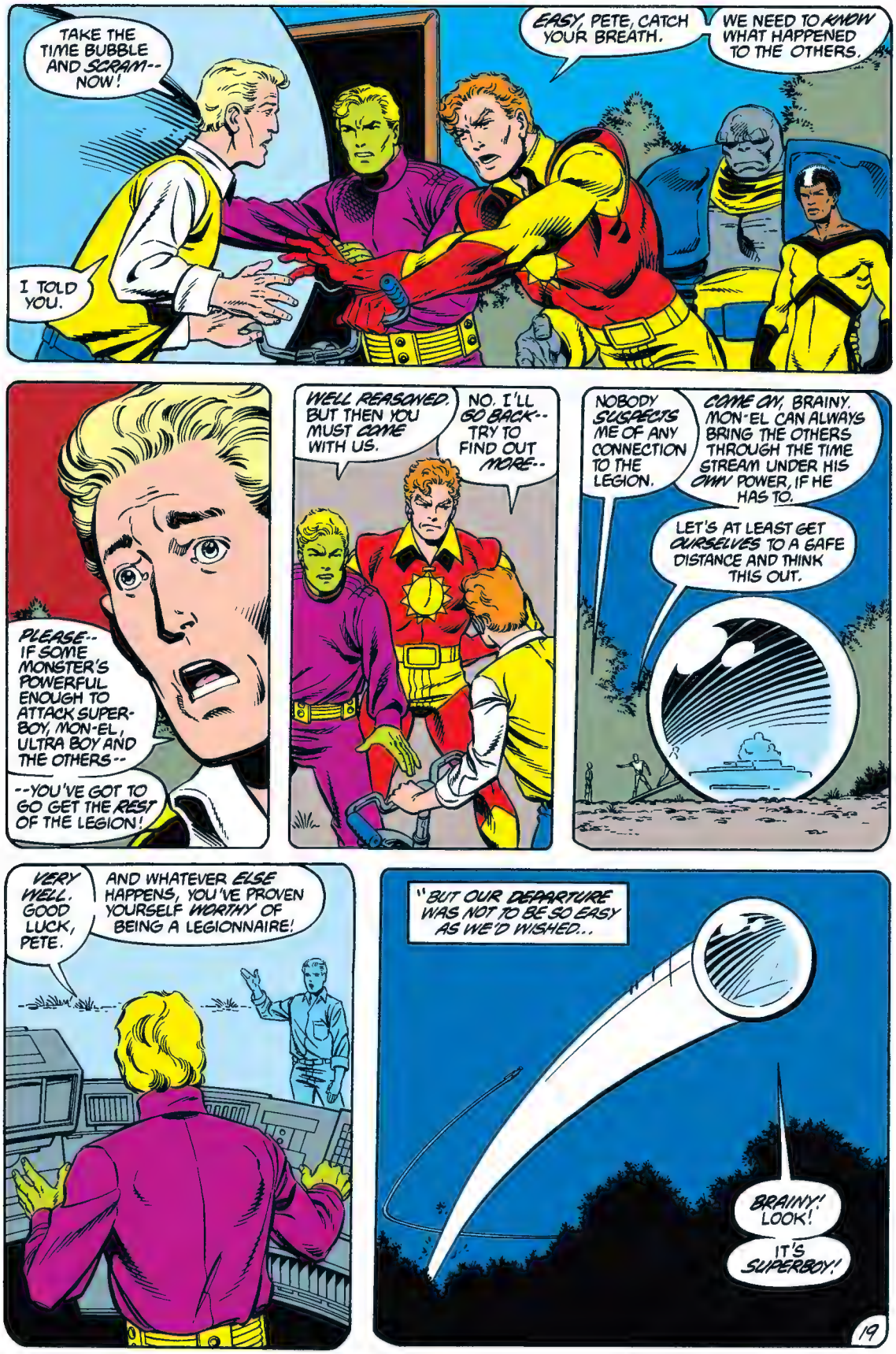
"AGAIN AND AGAIN HE STOOD WITH US...
"...AGAINST THE FATAL FIVE...
"AGAINST MEMBERS OF THE SO-CALLED LEGION OF SUPER-VILLAINS...
"...AND AGAINST OUR MOST INSIDIOUS FOE, THE TERRIBLE TIME TRAPPER!
"WHO SEEMS TO BE THE ONE BEHIND OUR CURRENT DILEMMA, SUPERMAN.


"IT WAS COSMIC BOY WHO DEDUCED THE TRAPPER'S INVOLVEMENT, AFTER HE TOOK A TRIP TO THE 20TH CENTURY...
"AND FOUND IT MUCH DIFFERENT FROM THE HISTORY WE KNEW!" *
SPACE EXPLORATION CHALLENGED
* See the COSMIC BOY mini-series.

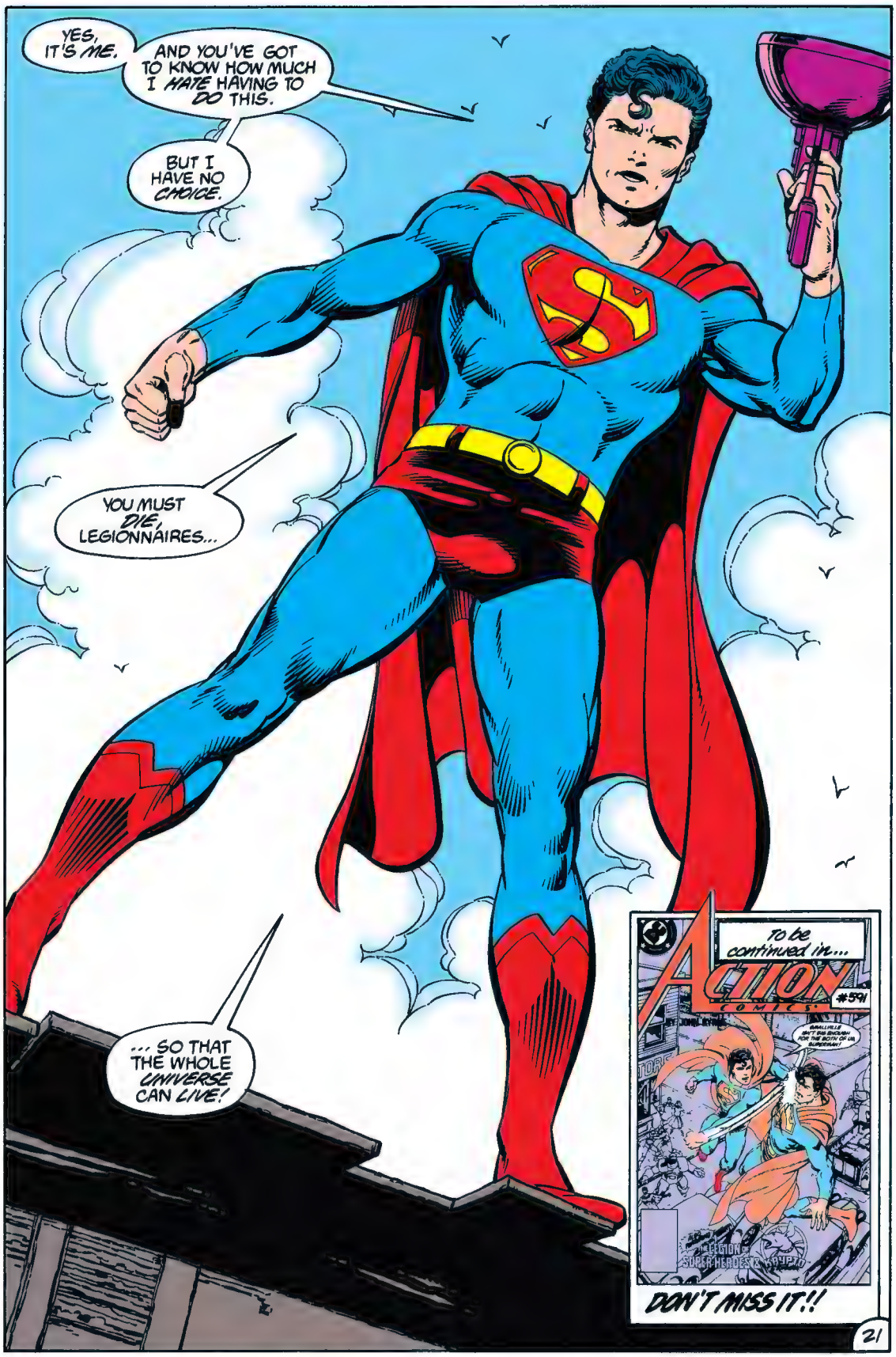

"WE DECIDED TO TRY TO REACH THE TRAPPER'S CITADEL AT THE END OF TIME, BUT INSTEAD OF TRAVELLING FORWARD WE FOUND OURSELVES...
...BACK IN SUPERBOY'S TIME!?!
WELCOME TO SMALLVILLE HOME OF SUPERBOY
16

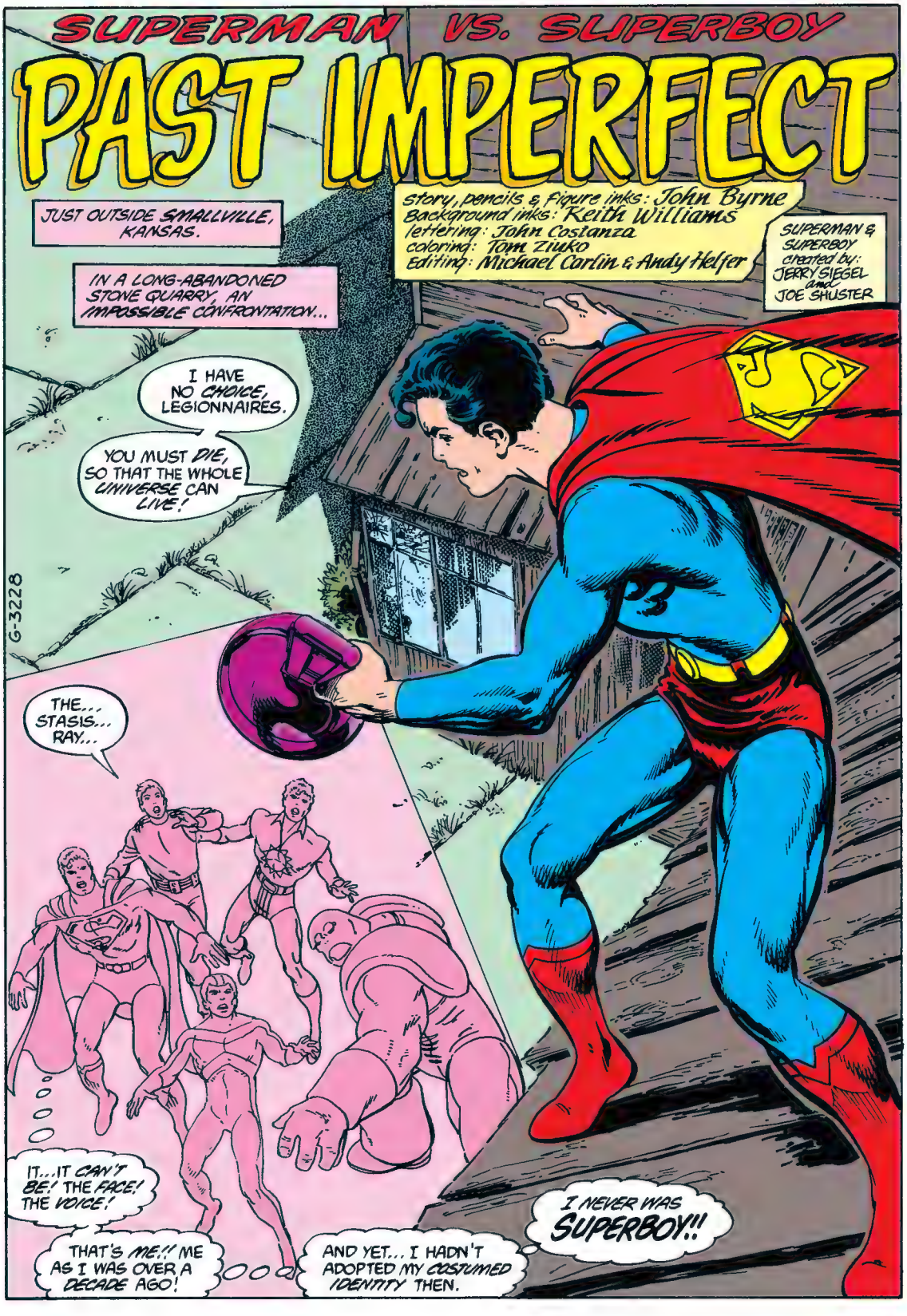

"WE HAD ASSUMED THAT TIME AND PLACE TO BE DENIED TO US -- OBLITERATED BY THE TIME TRAPPER'S MACHINATIONS.
"YET WHEN COSMIC BOY, ULTRA BOY, MON-EL AND NIGHT GIRL WENT OUT TO INVESTIGATE...
CORNER CAFE
"THEY FOUND SMALLVILLE EXACTLY AS WE REMEMBERED IT.!
"CLEAN...PEACEFUL...
"EVEN POPULATED WITH THE SAME FAMILIAR FACES...
POLICE CHIEF PARKER!
I'M BOB COBB, A FRIEND OF THE KENTS...
YOU STAYED WITH THEM A FEW YEARS BACK, DIDN'TCHA?
NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
"THERE WAS ONE FACE THEY WERE ESPECIALLY PLEASED TO SEE...
PETE ROSS!
BUDDY, ARE WE GLAD TO SEE YOU!
YOU'RE PROOF EVERYTHING'S OKAY HERE!
SURE EVERYTHING'S OKAY. IT HAS BEEN FOR WEEKS.
EVER SINCE SUPERBOY SAVED US FROM THOSE WEIRD RED SKIES AND THAT ENERGY WALL.
"AND...
LAND SAKES, PA -- LOOK!
IT'S MON-EL AND SOME OF THE LEGIONNAIRES!
HI, MR. AND MRS. KENT!
GOSH, HOW YOU BOYS HAVE GROWN!
MA AND PA, TOO?
WHAT CAN ALL THIS MEAN? IT'S LIKE SOME CRAZY TWILIGHT ZONE VERSION OF MY LIFE.
AND THAT "RED SKIES" REFERENCE...
ALL RIGHT...
CHIEF PARKER... PETE ROSS...THE KENTS ... ALL THESE PEOPLE ARE REAL ENOUGH.
BUT YOU STILL HAVEN'T CONVINCED ME YOU'RE ON THE LEVEL...
17

"MY TALE IS FAR FROM DONE, SUPERMAN.
IS IT NOT TAKING TOO LONG FOR THE OTHERS TO RETURN ?
YOU'VE GOT TO MAKE ALLOWANCES FOR THE TIME PERIOD, INVISIBLE KID -- NO COMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORTATION.
MORE SIGNIFICANTLY, SUN BOY, THEY CAN'T USE THEIR POWERS OR THEIR FLIGHT RINGS OPENLY.
WE DON'T WANT TO INTRUDE ON HISTORY.
TRAVELLING IN TIME SEEMS TOO DANGEROUS TO ME. I RECALL HORRORS OF THE PAST THAT WERE ONLY WORDS IN MY CLASSROOM--
--DISEASES LIKE BLACK PLAGUE OR SMALLPOX-- /INSANITIES LIKE RACIAL HATRED.
I DON'T KNOW WHICH SEEMS MORE PECULIAR TO ME.
SILICON-LIFE KNOWS NO ORGANIC DISEASE AND--
WAIT, BLOK!
THE TIME BUBBLE'S RELAYING AN EMERGENCY SIGNAL FROM COSMIC BOY'S FLIGHT RING.
SINCE MON-EL AND ULTRA BOY CAN HANDLE ANYTHING THIS SIDE OF VALIDUS, I'M AFRAID IT'S SERIOUS.
WE MUST--
RUN FOR IT, LEGIONNAIRES!
HUH? PETE ROSS!?
GO-- WHILE YOU STILL CAN!
THE OTHERS WENT INTO THE KENT HOUSE-- SCREAMED -- AND NO ONE CAME OUT!
18

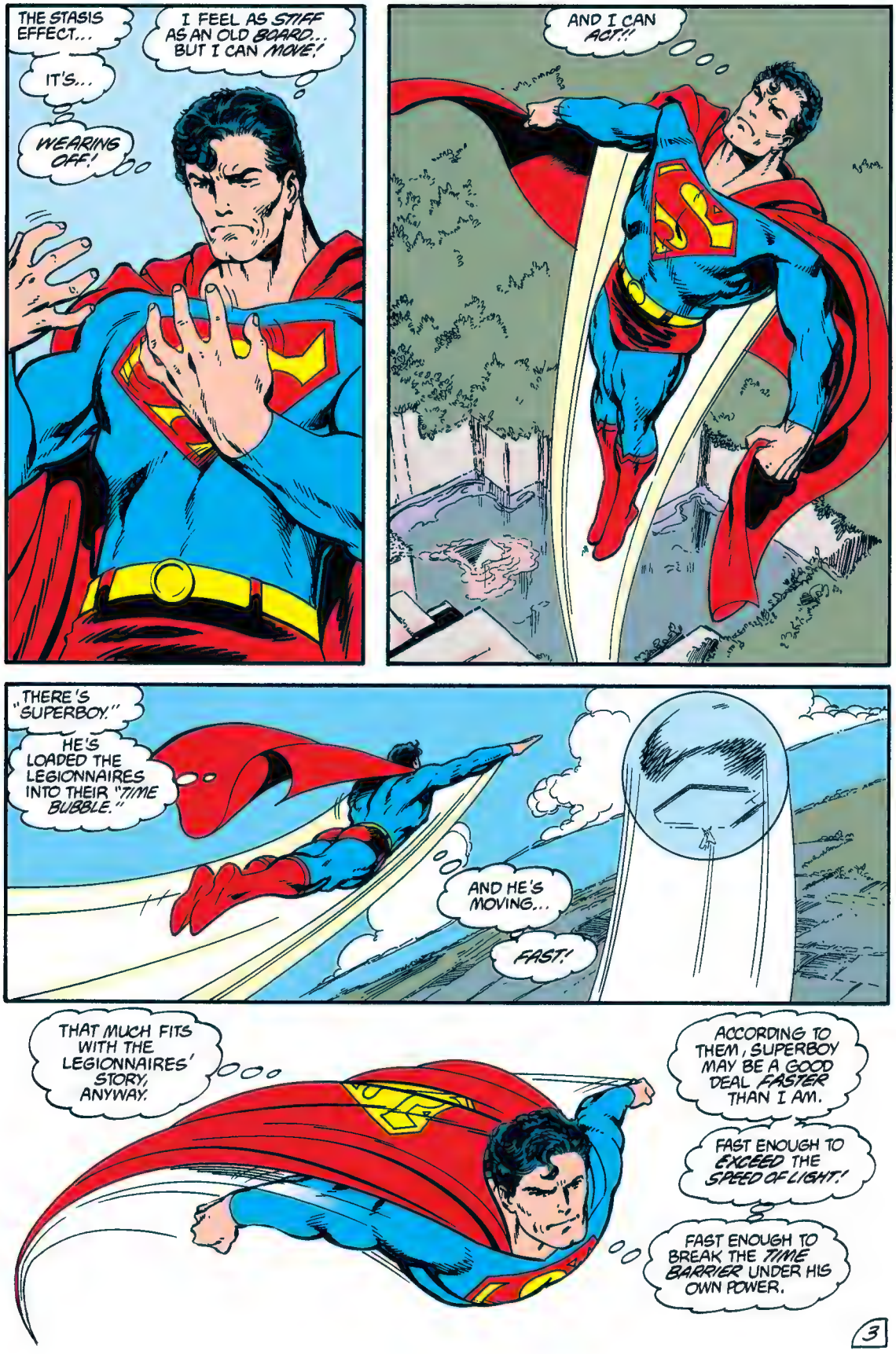

TAKE THE TIME BUBBLE AND SCRAM-- NOW!
I TOLD YOU.
EASY, PETE, CATCH YOUR BREATH.
WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHERS.
PLEASE-- IF SOME MONSTER'S POWERFUL ENOUGH TO ATTACK SUPER-BOY, MON-EL, ULTRA BOY AND THE OTHERS--
--YOU'VE GOT TO GO GET THE REST OF THE LEGION!
WELL REASONED. BUT THEN YOU MUST COME WITH US.
NO. I'LL GO BACK-- TRY TO FIND OUT MORE--
NOBODY SUSPECTS ME OF ANY CONNECTION TO THE LEGION.
COME ON, BRAINY. MON-EL CAN ALWAYS BRING THE OTHERS THROUGH THE TIME STREAM UNDER HIS OWN POWER, IF HE HAS TO.
LET'S AT LEAST GET OURSELVES TO A SAFE DISTANCE AND THINK THIS OUT.
VERY WELL. GOOD LUCK, PETE.
AND WHATEVER ELSE HAPPENS, YOU'VE PROVEN YOURSELF WORTHY OF BEING A LEGIONNAIRE!
"BUT OUR DEPARTURE WAS NOT TO BE SO EASY AS WE'D WISHED...
BRAINY! LOOK!
IT'S SUPERBOY!
19

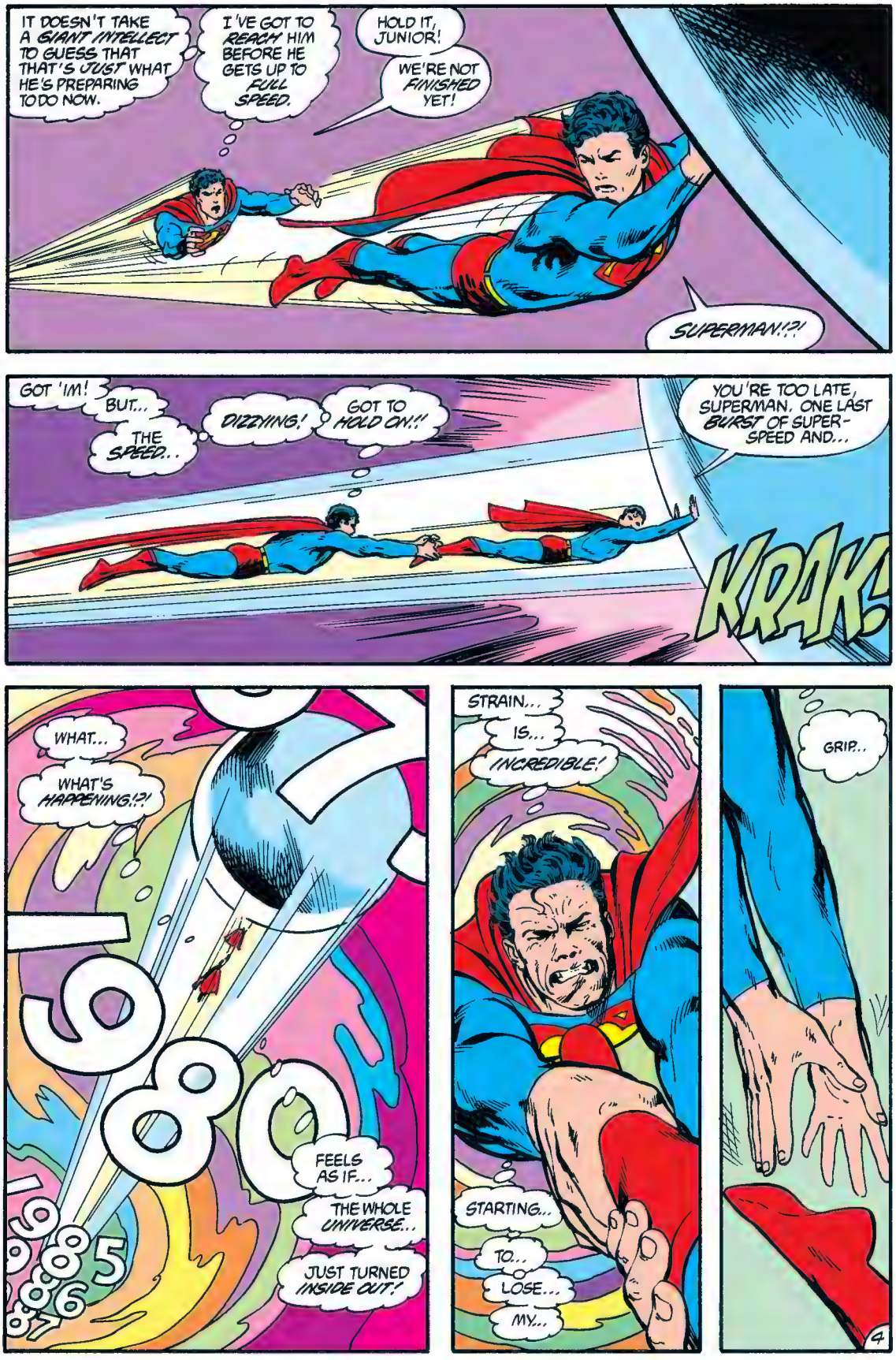
"TO OUR SHOCK AND HORROR SUPERBOY FIRED A STASIS BEAM AT OUR CRAFT!
"WE BARELY ELUDED IT AS THE TIME BUBBLE FADED INTO NON-SPACE."
BUT IT'S CERTAINLY NOT OVER YET, SUPERMAN.
OUR FOUR FRIENDS ARE STILL CAPTIVES IN THAT OTHER SMALLVILLE.
AND SUPERBOY MAY HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW US.
YOU MEAN...HE CAN TRAVEL THROUGH TIME UNDER HIS OWN POWER? I'VE NEVER EVEN TRIED SUCH A THING.
THIS "SUPERBOY" OF YOURS SOUNDS LIKE HE MAY ACTUALLY BE MORE POWERFUL THAN ME...
COUNT ON IT, "SUPERMAN."
WHAT...??
THE STASIS RAY...
<CAN'T...
...MOVE...
...SUPER...?
20

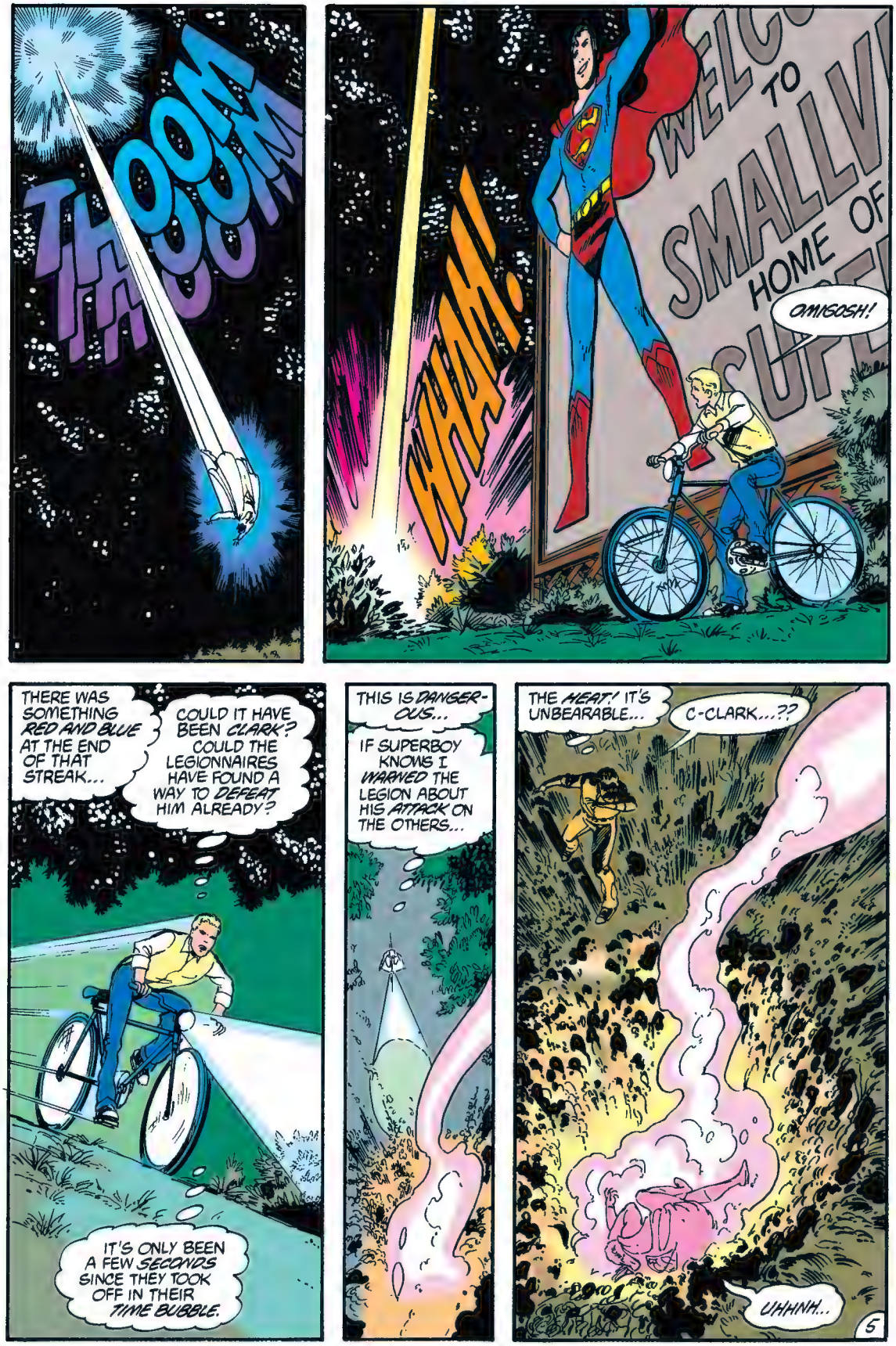

YES, IT'S ME.
AND YOU'VE GOT TO KNOW HOW MUCH I HATE HAVING TO DO THIS.
BUT I HAVE NO CHOICE.
YOU MUST DIE, LEGIONNAIRES...
... SO THAT THE WHOLE UNIVERSE CAN LIVE!
To be continued in...
ACTION COMICS #591
DON'T MISS IT!!
21

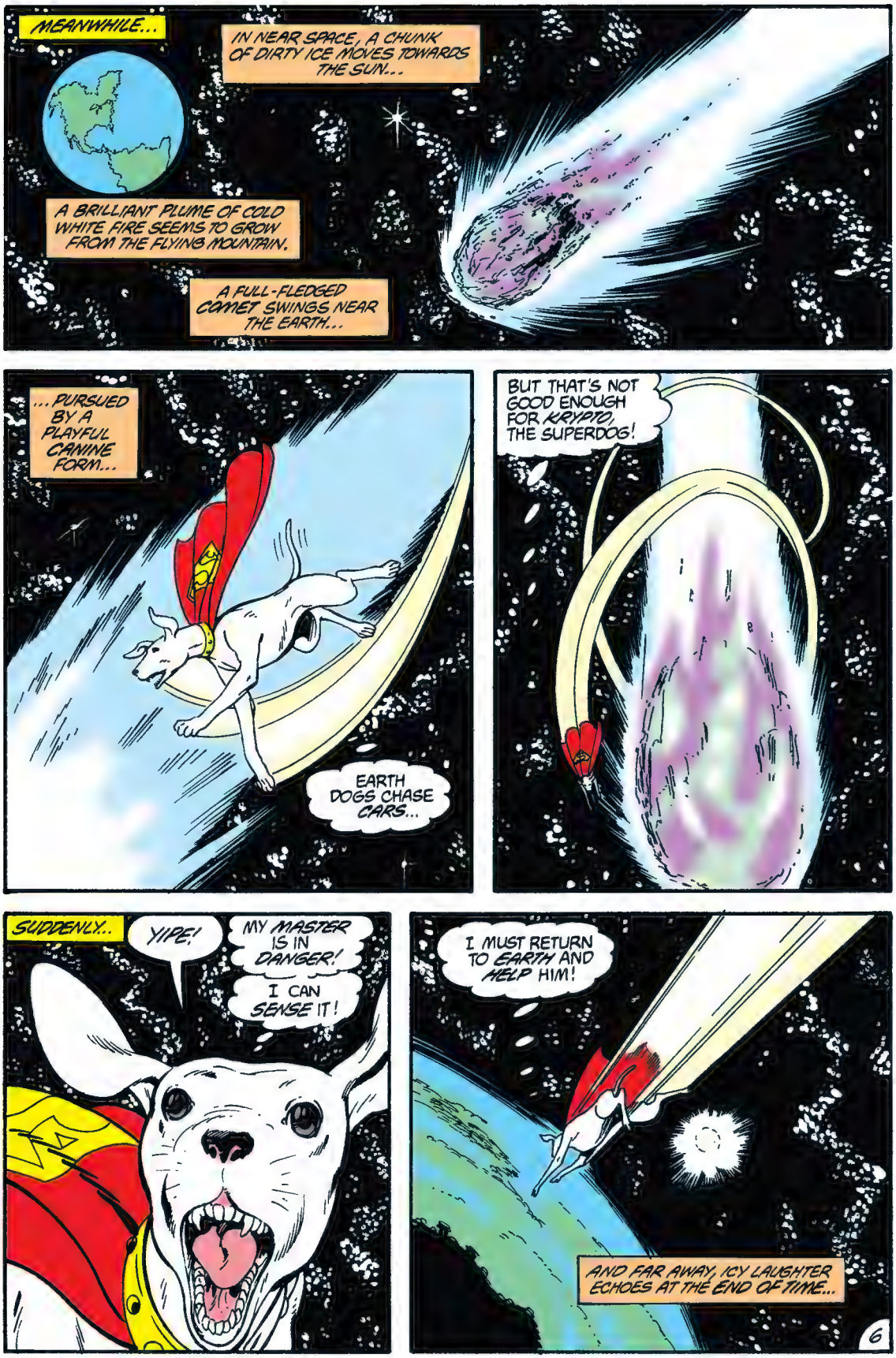

SUPERMAN VS. SUPERBOY
PAST IMPERFECT
story, pencils & figure inks: John Byrne
Background inks: Keith Williams
lettering: John Costanza
coloring: Tom Ziuko
Editing: Michael Carlin & Andy Helfer
SUPERMAN & SUPERBOY created by: JERRY SIEGEL and JOE SHUSTER
JUST OUTSIDE SMALLVILLE, KANSAS.
IN A LONG-ABANDONED STONE QUARRY, AN IMPOSSIBLE CONFRONTATION...
I HAVE NO CHOICE, LEGIONNAIRES.
YOU MUST DIE, SO THAT THE WHOLE UNIVERSE CAN LIVE!
G-3228
THE... STASIS... RAY...
IT...IT CAN'T BE! THE FACE! THE VOICE!
THAT'S ME!! ME AS I WAS OVER A DECADE AGO!
AND YET... I HADN'T ADOPTED MY COSTUMED IDENTITY THEN.
I NEVER WAS SUPERBOY!!

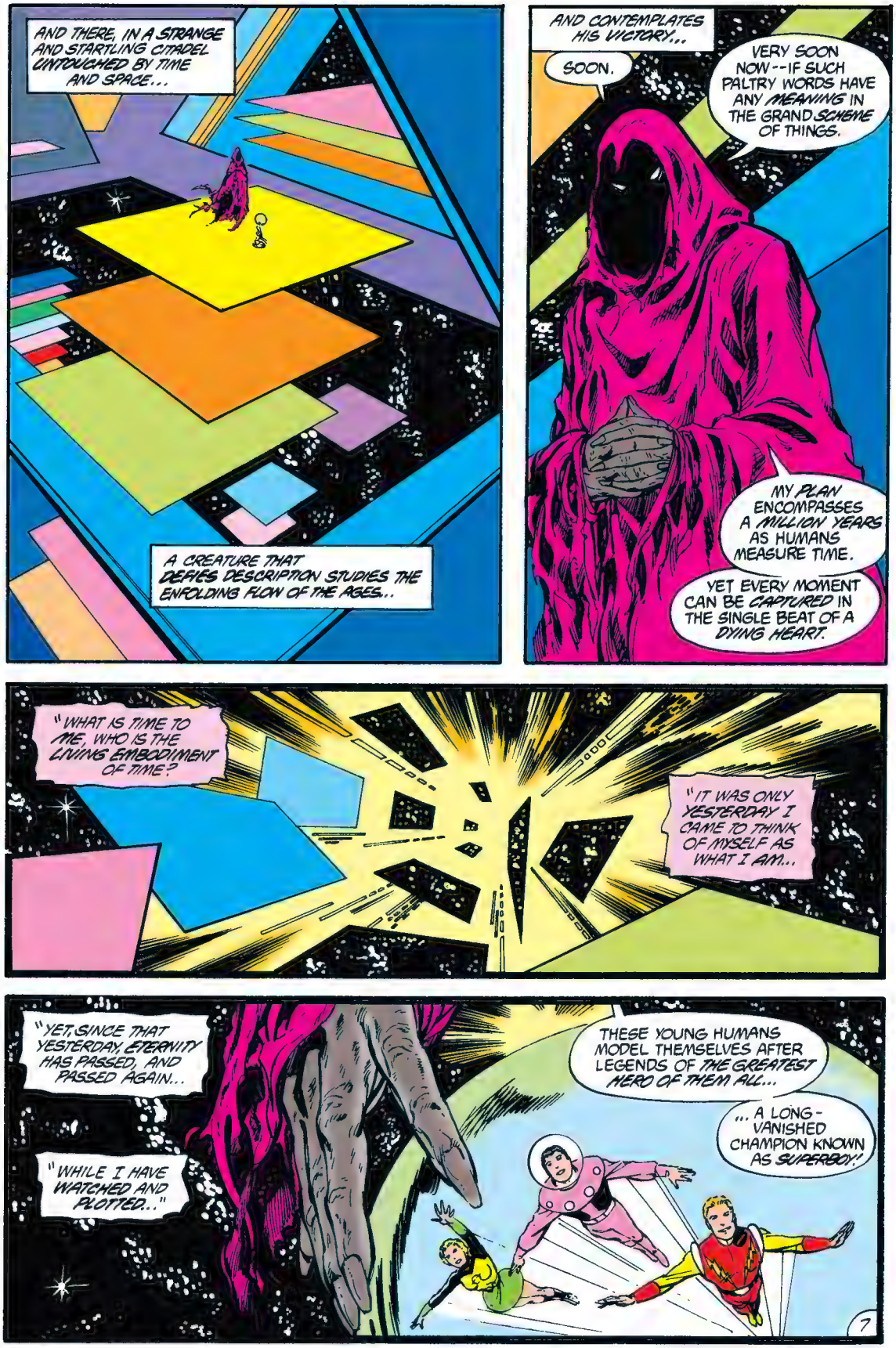
YET THESE FOUR STRANGERS--THESE MEMBERS OF THE SO-CALLED LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES--CLAIM TO HAVE KNOWN ME--HIM--AS AN ALLY FOR YEARS!
THE STASIS RAY HAS NOT HARMED YOU PERMANENTLY.
BUT IT WILL HOLD YOU FROZEN AND HARMLESS UNTIL I CAN TRANSPORT YOU BACK TO MY TIME!
EXCEPT FOR YOU, MY SUPPOSED OTHER SELF.
YOU'RE NOT THE SUPERMAN I'LL GROW UP TO BECOME, THAT'S OBVIOUS.
BUT... BUT SOMEHOW I STILL CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO DELIVER YOU TO THE MASTER!
SO SINCE HIS ORDERS DID NOT SPECIFICALLY COVER YOU...
YOU GET OFF ON A TECHNICALITY.
FAREWELL, SUPERMAN.
HE'S STACKED UP THE LEGIONNAIRES LIKE SO MUCH CORDWOOD!
I CAN'T LET HIM JUST FLY OFF WITH THEM...
BUT, FROZEN LIKE THIS, WHAT CAN I...
WAIT...
I...
CAN...
MOVE!!
2

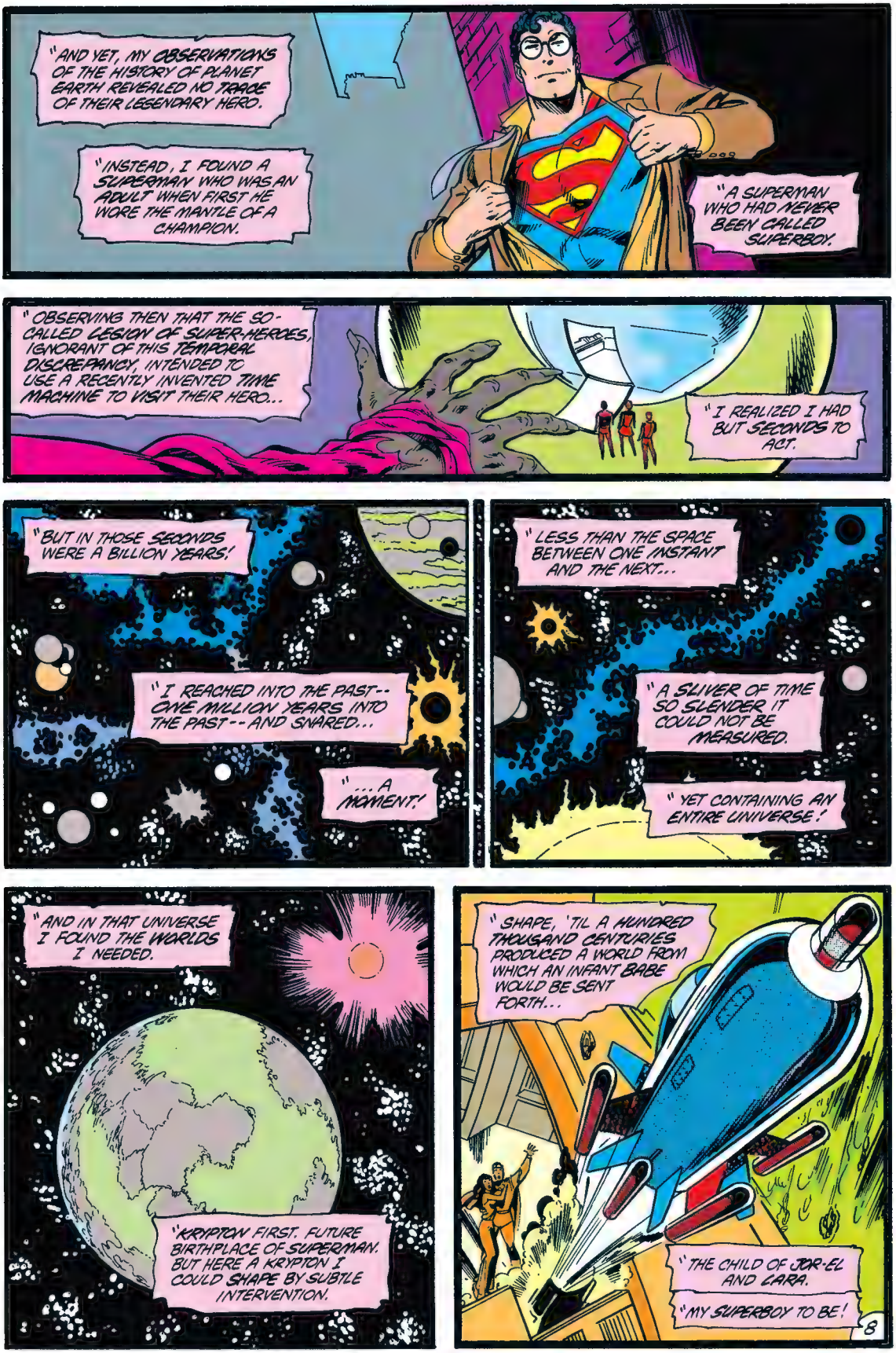

THE STASIS EFFECT...
I FEEL AS STIFF AS AN OLD BOARD... BUT I CAN MOVE!
IT'S...
WEARING OFF!
AND I CAN ACT!!
THERE'S "SUPERBOY."
HE'S LOADED THE LEGIONNAIRES INTO THEIR "TIME BUBBLE."
AND HE'S MOVING...
FAST!
THAT MUCH FITS WITH THE LEGIONNAIRES' STORY, ANYWAY.
ACCORDING TO THEM, SUPERBOY MAY BE A GOOD DEAL FASTER THAN I AM.
FAST ENOUGH TO EXCEED THE SPEED OF LIGHT!
FAST ENOUGH TO BREAK THE TIME BARRIER UNDER HIS OWN POWER.
3

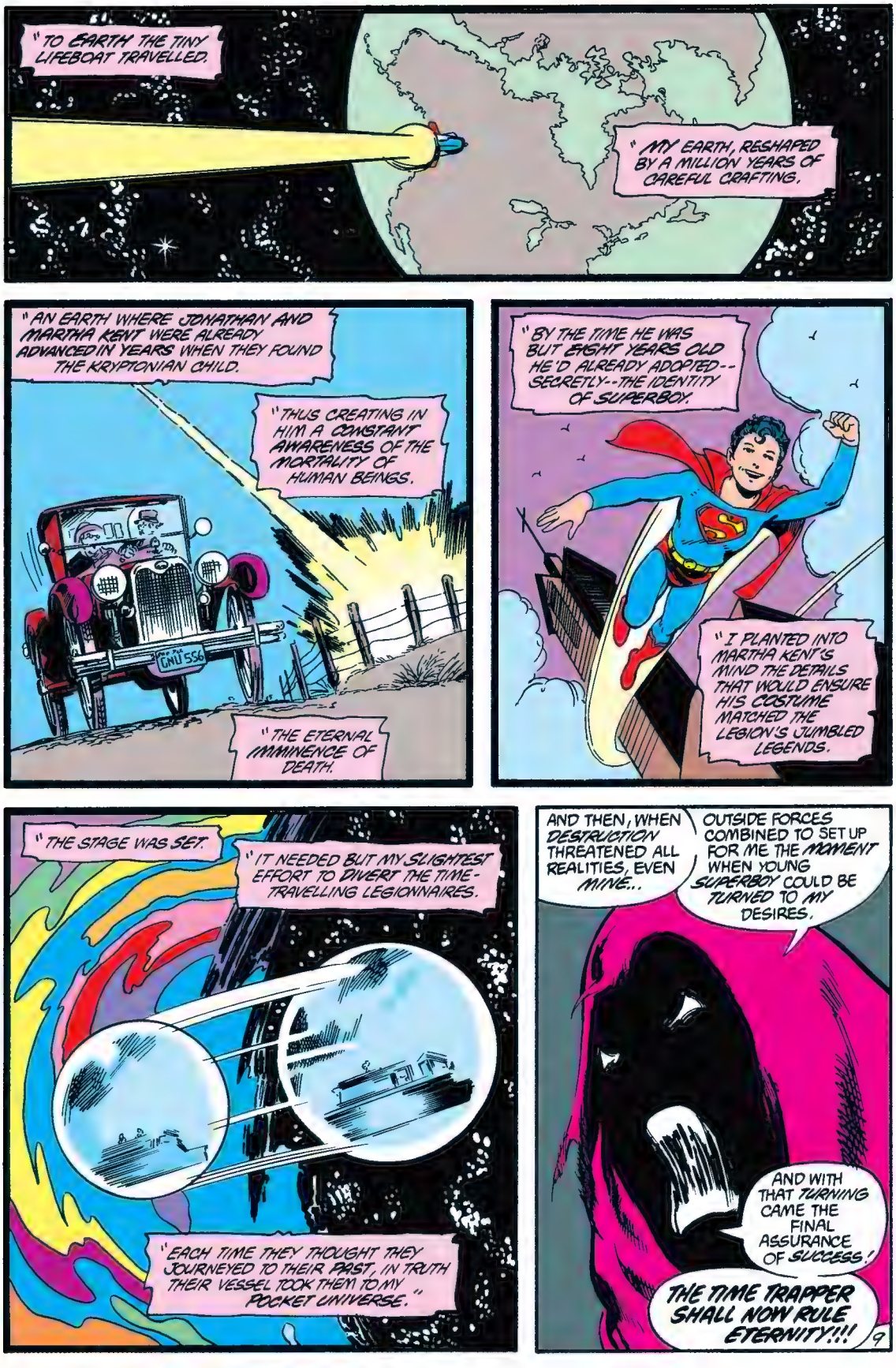

IT DOESN'T TAKE A GIANT INTELLECT TO GUESS THAT THAT'S JUST WHAT HE'S PREPARING TO DO NOW.
I'VE GOT TO REACH HIM BEFORE HE GETS UP TO FULL SPEED.
HOLD IT, JUNIOR!
WE'RE NOT FINISHED YET!
SUPERMAN!?!
GOT 'IM!
BUT... THE SPEED...
DIZZYING!
GOT TO HOLD ON!!
YOU'RE TOO LATE, SUPERMAN. ONE LAST BURST OF SUPER-SPEED AND...
KRAK!
WHAT...
WHAT'S HAPPENING!?!
1984
FEELS AS IF...
THE WHOLE UNIVERSE...
JUST TURNED INSIDE OUT!
STRAIN...
IS...
INCREDIBLE!
STARTING...
TO...
LOSE...
MY...
GRIP..
4

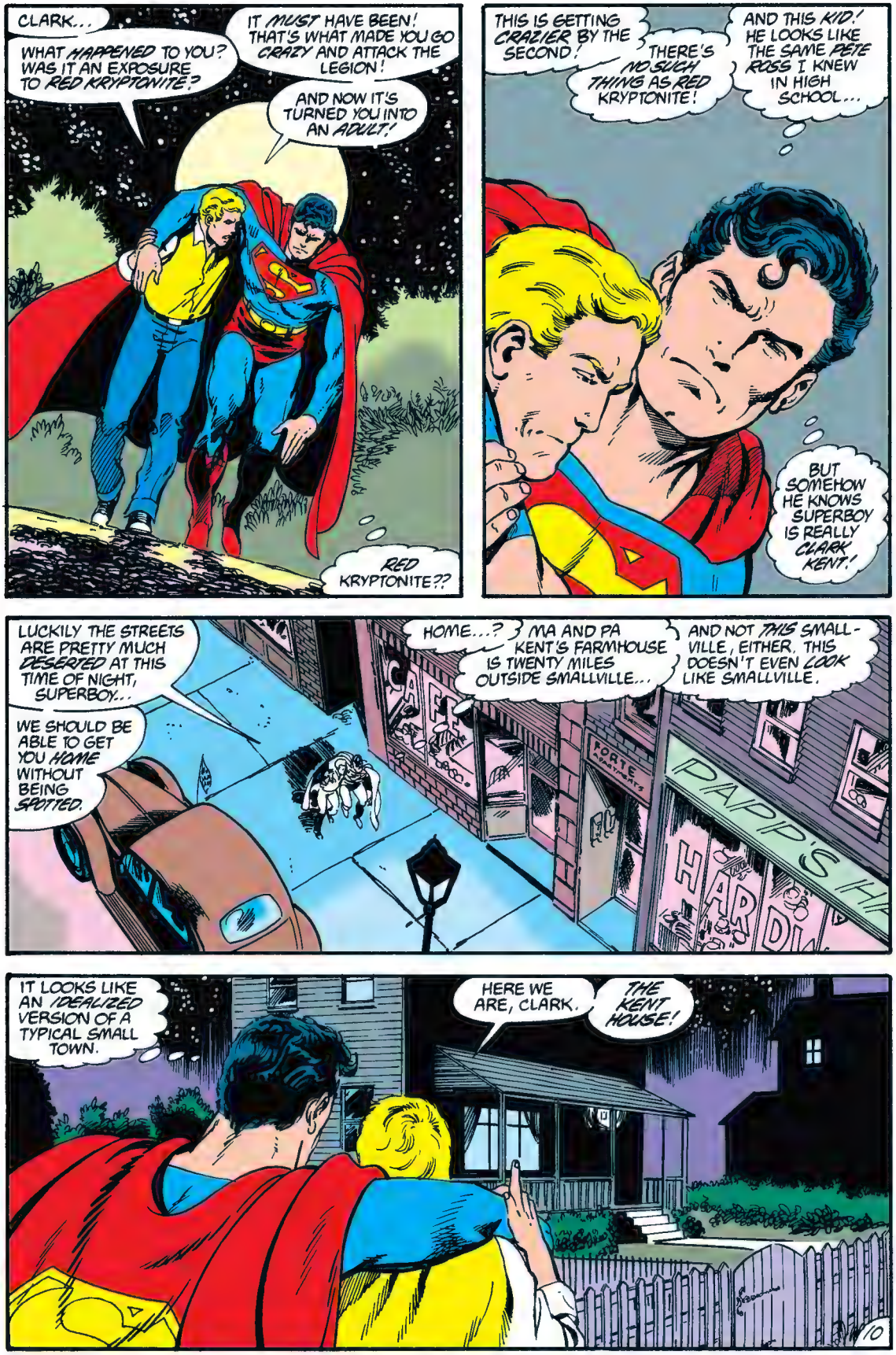

THOOM
THOOM
WHAM!
TO
HOME OF
OMIGOSH!
THERE WAS SOMETHING *RED AND BLUE* AT THE END OF THAT STREAK...
COULD IT HAVE BEEN *CLARK?* COULD THE LEGIONNAIRES HAVE FOUND A WAY TO *DEFEAT* HIM ALREADY?
IT'S ONLY BEEN A FEW *SECONDS* SINCE THEY TOOK OFF IN THEIR *TIME BUBBLE.*
THIS IS *DANGEROUS...*
IF SUPERBOY KNOWS I *WARNED* THE LEGION ABOUT HIS *ATTACK* ON THE OTHERS...
THE *HEAT!* IT'S UNBEARABLE...
C-CLARK...??
UHHNH...
5

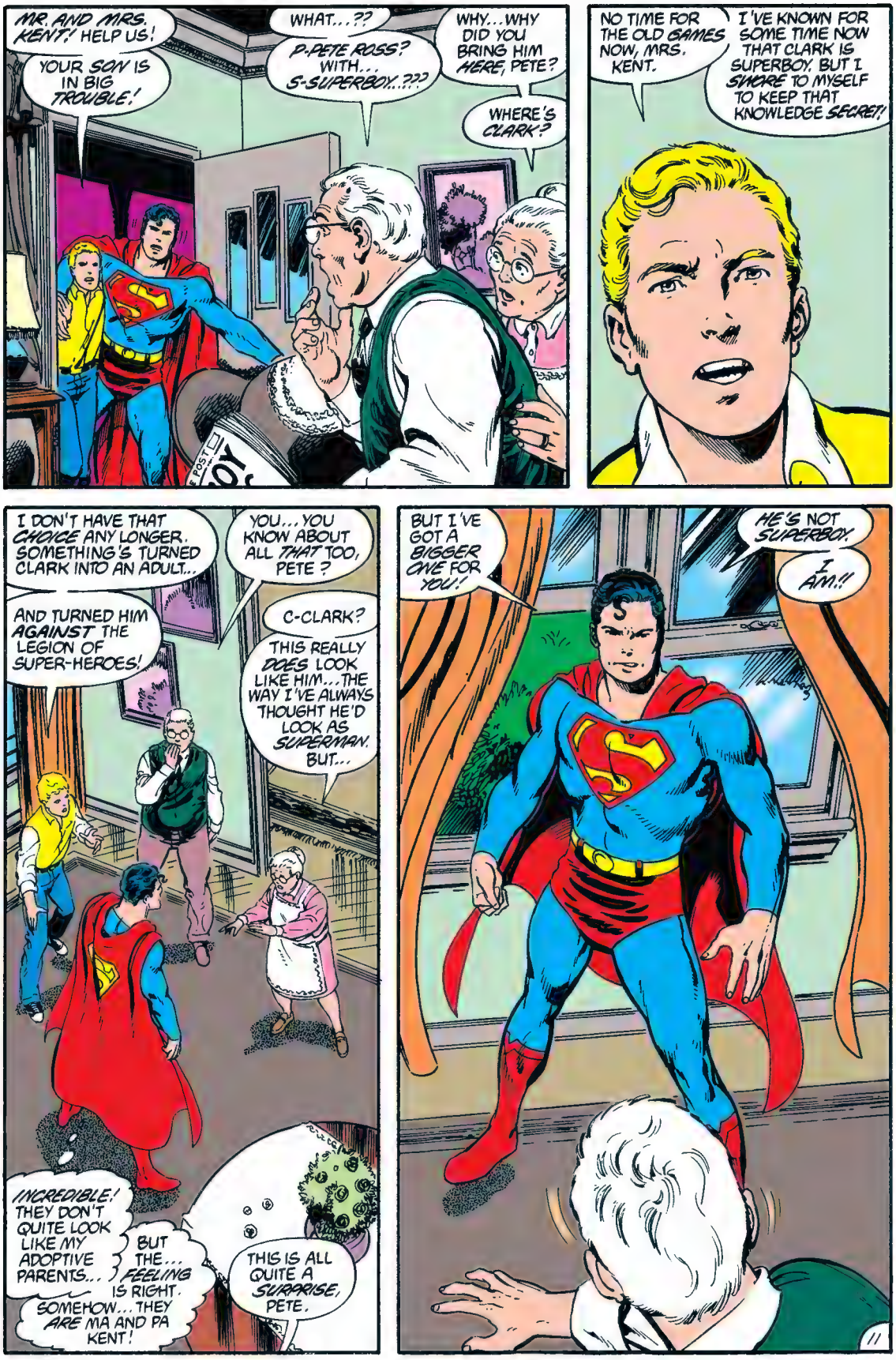

MEANWHILE...
IN NEAR SPACE, A CHUNK OF DIRTY ICE MOVES TOWARDS THE SUN...
A BRILLIANT PLUME OF COLD WHITE FIRE SEEMS TO GROW FROM THE FLYING MOUNTAIN.
A FULL-FLEDGED COMET SWINGS NEAR THE EARTH...
...PURSUED BY A PLAYFUL CANINE FORM...
EARTH DOGS CHASE CARS...
BUT THAT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR KRYPTO, THE SUPERDOG!
SUDDENLY...
YIPE!
MY MASTER IS IN DANGER!
I CAN SENSE IT!
I MUST RETURN TO EARTH AND HELP HIM!
AND FAR AWAY, ICY LAUGHTER ECHOES AT THE END OF TIME...
6

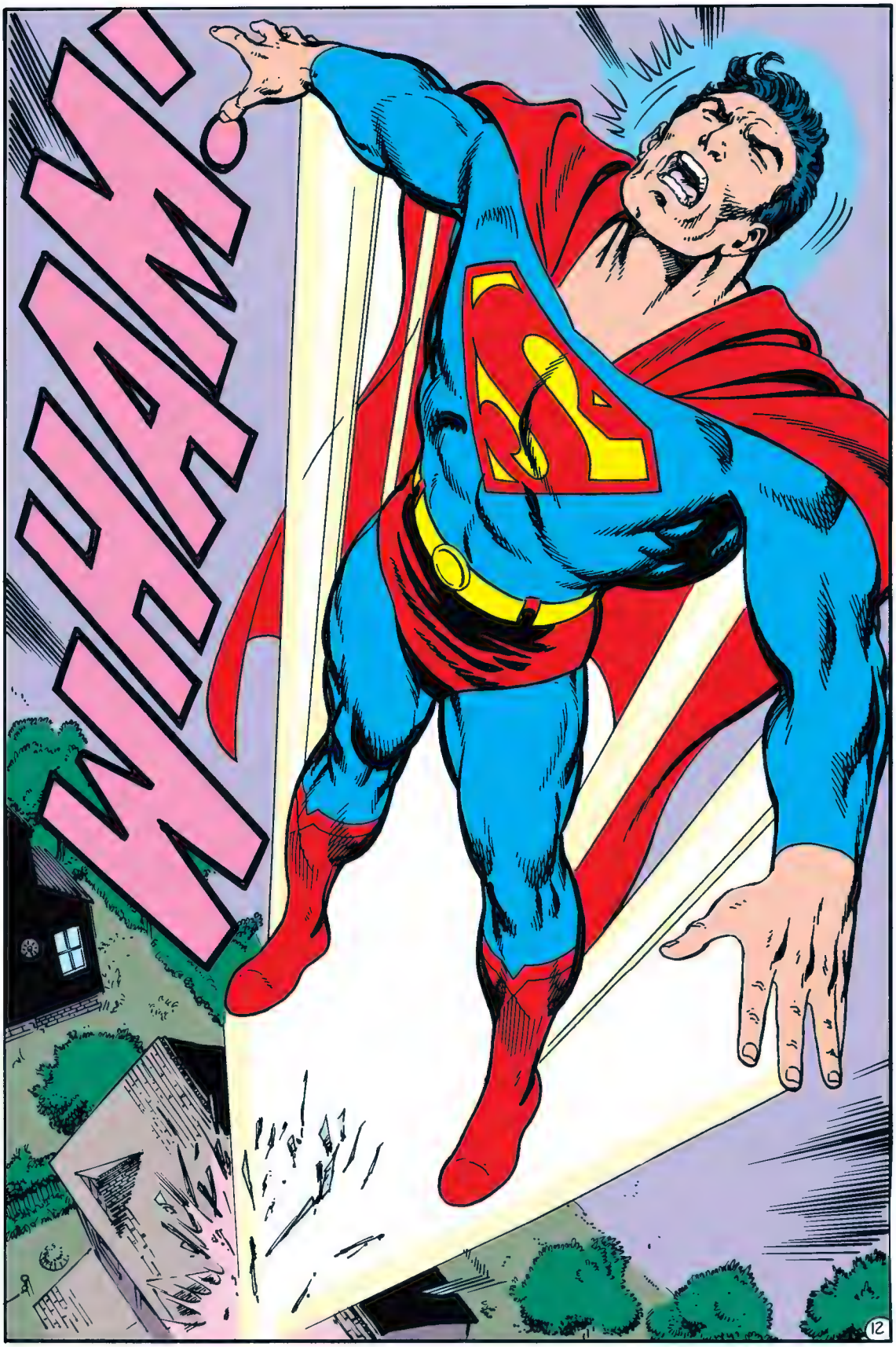

AND THERE, IN A STRANGE AND STARTLING CITADEL UNTOUCHED BY TIME AND SPACE...
A CREATURE THAT DEFIES DESCRIPTION STUDIES THE ENFOLDING FLOW OF THE AGES...
AND CONTEMPLATES HIS VICTORY...
SOON.
VERY SOON NOW--IF SUCH PALTRY WORDS HAVE ANY MEANING IN THE GRAND SCHEME OF THINGS.
MY PLAN ENCOMPASSES A MILLION YEARS AS HUMANS MEASURE TIME.
YET EVERY MOMENT CAN BE CAPTURED IN THE SINGLE BEAT OF A DYING HEART.
"WHAT IS TIME TO ME, WHO IS THE LIVING EMBODIMENT OF TIME?
"IT WAS ONLY YESTERDAY I CAME TO THINK OF MYSELF AS WHAT I AM...
"YET, SINCE THAT YESTERDAY, ETERNITY HAS PASSED, AND PASSED AGAIN...
"WHILE I HAVE WATCHED AND PLOTTED..."
THESE YOUNG HUMANS MODEL THEMSELVES AFTER LEGENDS OF THE GREATEST HERO OF THEM ALL...
... A LONG-VANISHED CHAMPION KNOWN AS SUPERBOY!
7

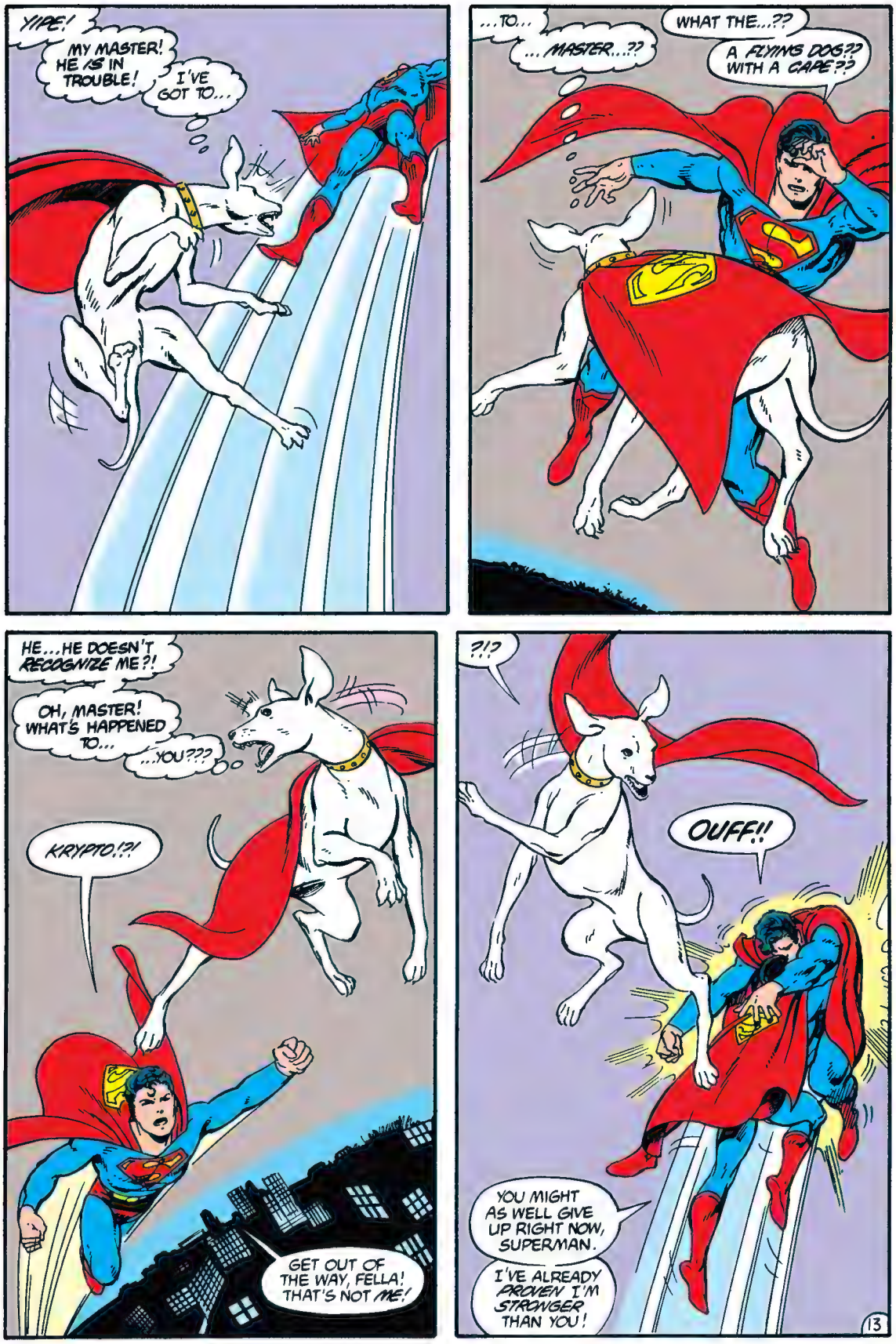

"AND YET, MY OBSERVATIONS OF THE HISTORY OF PLANET EARTH REVEALED NO TRACE OF THEIR LEGENDARY HERO.
"INSTEAD, I FOUND A SUPERMAN WHO WAS AN ADULT WHEN FIRST HE WORE THE MANTLE OF A CHAMPION.
"A SUPERMAN WHO HAD NEVER BEEN CALLED SUPERBOY.
"OBSERVING THEN THAT THE SO-CALLED LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES, IGNORANT OF THIS TEMPORAL DISCREPANCY, INTENDED TO USE A RECENTLY INVENTED TIME MACHINE TO VISIT THEIR HERO...
"I REALIZED I HAD BUT SECONDS TO ACT.
"BUT IN THOSE SECONDS WERE A BILLION YEARS!
"I REACHED INTO THE PAST--ONE MILLION YEARS INTO THE PAST--AND SNARED...
"...A MOMENT!
"LESS THAN THE SPACE BETWEEN ONE INSTANT AND THE NEXT...
"A SLIVER OF TIME SO SLENDER IT COULD NOT BE MEASURED.
"YET CONTAINING AN ENTIRE UNIVERSE!
"AND IN THAT UNIVERSE I FOUND THE WORLDS I NEEDED.
"KRYPTON FIRST. FUTURE BIRTHPLACE OF SUPERMAN. BUT HERE A KRYPTON I COULD SHAPE BY SUBTLE INTERVENTION.
"SHAPE, 'TIL A HUNDRED THOUSAND CENTURIES PRODUCED A WORLD FROM WHICH AN INFANT BABE WOULD BE SENT FORTH...
"THE CHILD OF JOR-EL AND LARA.
"MY SUPERBOY TO BE!
8

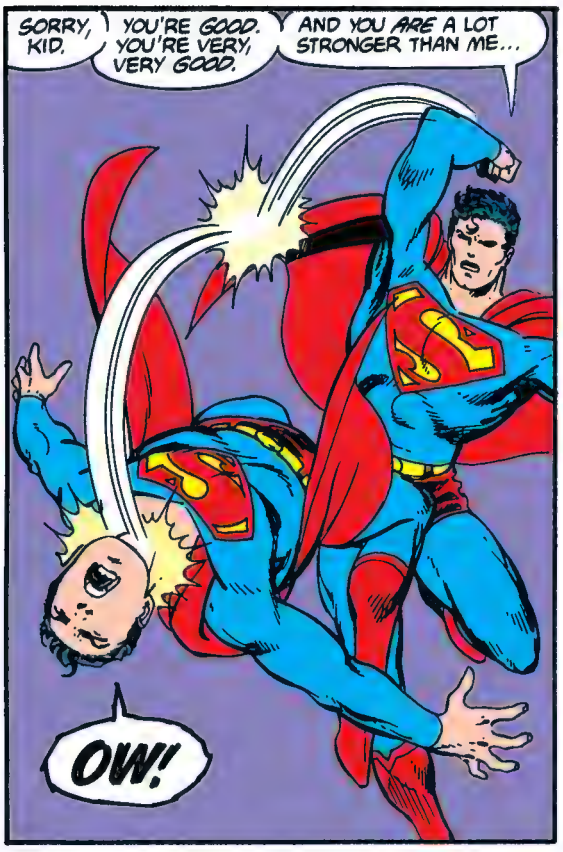

"TO EARTH THE TINY LIFEBOAT TRAVELLED.
"MY EARTH, RESHAPED BY A MILLION YEARS OF CAREFUL CRAFTING.
"AN EARTH WHERE JONATHAN AND MARTHA KENT WERE ALREADY ADVANCED IN YEARS WHEN THEY FOUND THE KRYPTONIAN CHILD.
"THUS CREATING IN HIM A CONSTANT AWARENESS OF THE MORTALITY OF HUMAN BEINGS.
GNU 556
"THE ETERNAL IMMINENCE OF DEATH.
"BY THE TIME HE WAS BUT EIGHT YEARS OLD HE'D ALREADY ADOPTED--SECRETLY--THE IDENTITY OF SUPERBOY.
"I PLANTED INTO MARTHA KENT'S MIND THE DETAILS THAT WOULD ENSURE HIS COSTUME MATCHED THE LEGION'S JUMBLED LEGENDS.
"THE STAGE WAS SET.
"IT NEEDED BUT MY SLIGHTEST EFFORT TO DIVERT THE TIME-TRAVELLING LEGIONNAIRES.
"EACH TIME THEY THOUGHT THEY JOURNEYED TO THEIR PAST, IN TRUTH THEIR VESSEL TOOK THEM TO MY POCKET UNIVERSE."
AND THEN, WHEN DESTRUCTION THREATENED ALL REALITIES, EVEN MINE...
OUTSIDE FORCES COMBINED TO SET UP FOR ME THE MOMENT WHEN YOUNG SUPERBOY COULD BE TURNED TO MY DESIRES.
AND WITH THAT TURNING CAME THE FINAL ASSURANCE OF SUCCESS!
THE TIME TRAPPER SHALL NOW RULE ETERNITY!!!
9

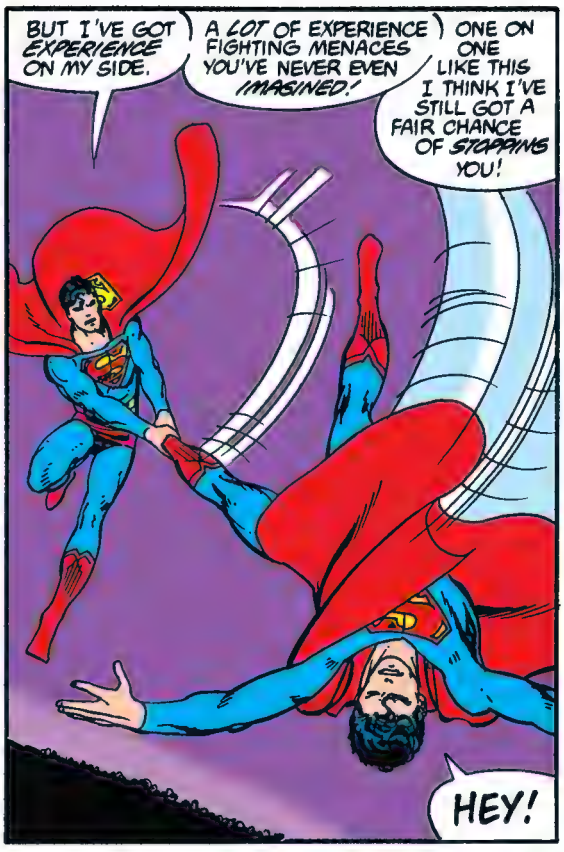

CLARK...
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU? WAS IT AN EXPOSURE TO RED KRYPTONITE?
IT MUST HAVE BEEN! THAT'S WHAT MADE YOU GO CRAZY AND ATTACK THE LEGION!
AND NOW IT'S TURNED YOU INTO AN ADULT!
RED KRYPTONITE??
THIS IS GETTING CRAZIER BY THE SECOND!
THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS RED KRYPTONITE!
AND THIS KID! HE LOOKS LIKE THE SAME PETE ROSS I KNEW IN HIGH SCHOOL...
BUT SOMEHOW HE KNOWS SUPERBOY IS REALLY CLARK KENT!
LUCKILY THE STREETS ARE PRETTY MUCH DESERTED AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT, SUPERBOY...
WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET YOU HOME WITHOUT BEING SPOTTED.
HOME...?
MA AND PA KENT'S FARMHOUSE IS TWENTY MILES OUTSIDE SMALLVILLE...
AND NOT THIS SMALLVILLE, EITHER. THIS DOESN'T EVEN LOOK LIKE SMALLVILLE.
FORTE
PAPP'S
IT LOOKS LIKE AN IDEALIZED VERSION OF A TYPICAL SMALL TOWN.
HERE WE ARE, CLARK.
THE KENT HOUSE!
10

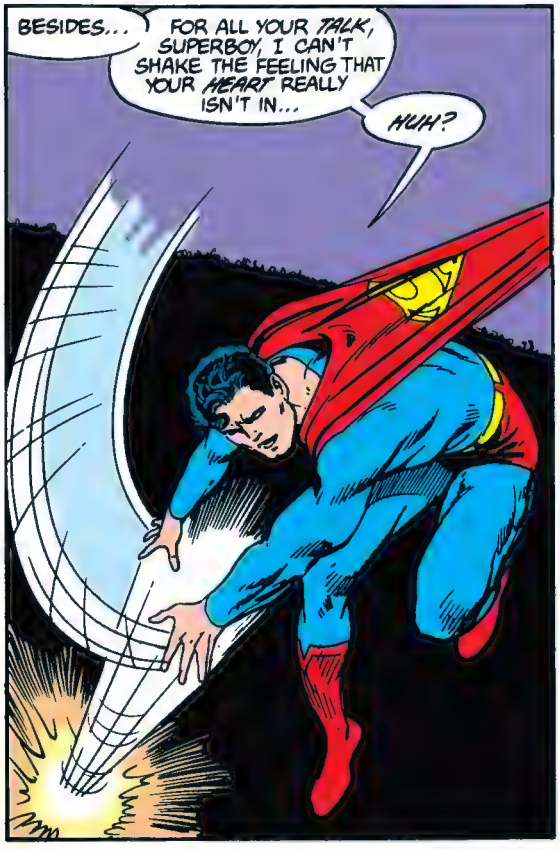

MR. AND MRS. KENT! HELP US!
YOUR SON IS IN BIG TROUBLE!
WHAT...??
P-PETE ROSS? WITH... S-SUPERBOY...???
WHY...WHY DID YOU BRING HIM HERE, PETE?
WHERE'S CLARK?
NO TIME FOR THE OLD GAMES NOW, MRS. KENT.
I'VE KNOWN FOR SOME TIME NOW THAT CLARK IS SUPERBOY. BUT I SWORE TO MYSELF TO KEEP THAT KNOWLEDGE SECRET!
I DON'T HAVE THAT CHOICE ANY LONGER. SOMETHING'S TURNED CLARK INTO AN ADULT...
AND TURNED HIM AGAINST THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES!
YOU...YOU KNOW ABOUT ALL THAT TOO, PETE?
C-CLARK?
THIS REALLY DOES LOOK LIKE HIM...THE WAY I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT HE'D LOOK AS SUPERMAN. BUT...
INCREDIBLE! THEY DON'T QUITE LOOK LIKE MY ADOPTIVE PARENTS...
BUT THE... FEELING IS RIGHT.
SOMEHOW...THEY ARE MA AND PA KENT!
THIS IS ALL QUITE A SURPRISE, PETE.
BUT I'VE GOT A BIGGER ONE FOR YOU!
HE'S NOT SUPERBOY.
I AM!!


WHAM!
12

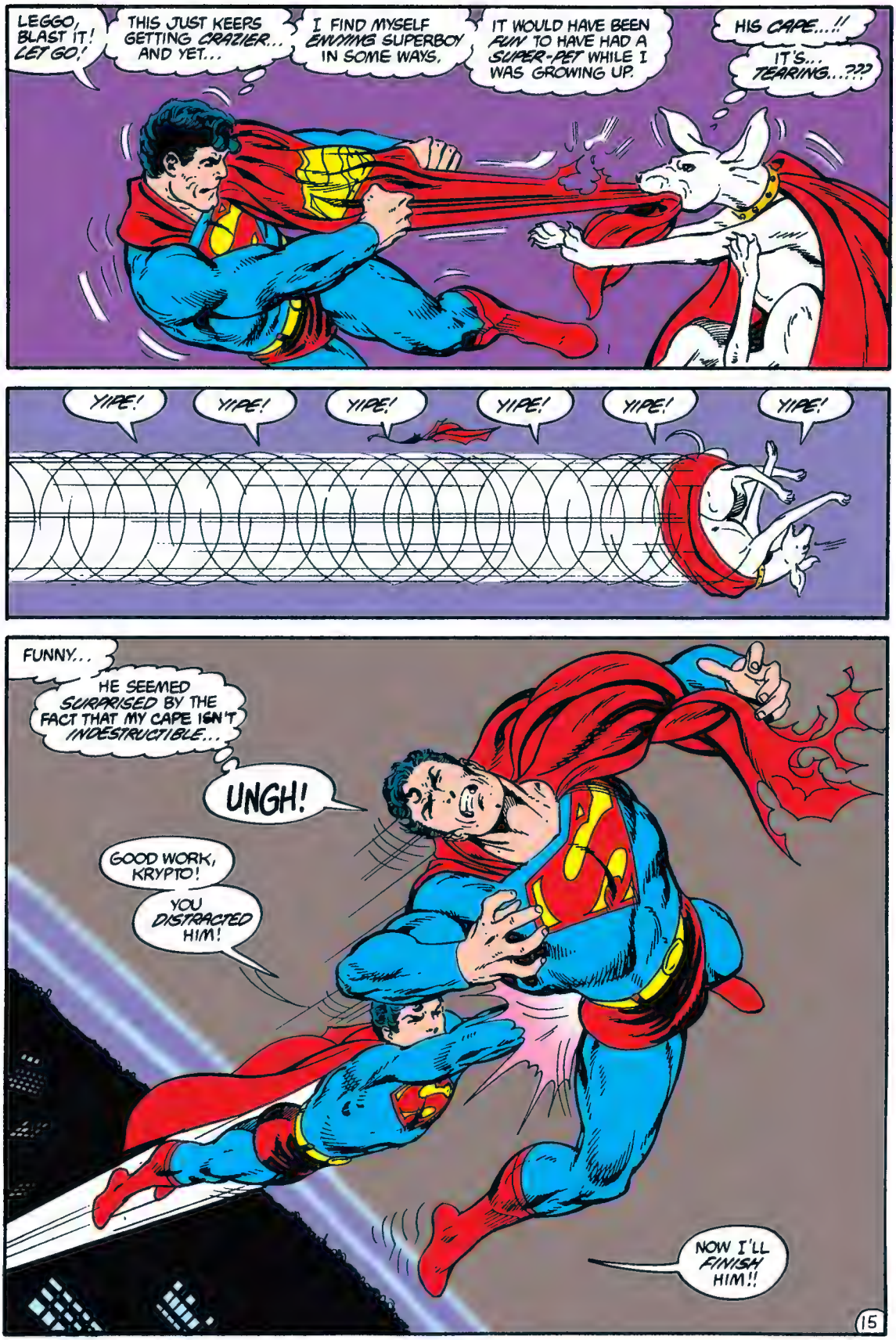

YIPE!
MY MASTER! HE IS IN TROUBLE!
I'VE GOT TO...
...TO...
...MASTER...??
WHAT THE...??
A FLYING DOG?? WITH A CAPE??
HE...HE DOESN'T RECOGNIZE ME?!
OH, MASTER! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO...
...YOU???
KRYPTO.!?!
GET OUT OF THE WAY, FELLA! THAT'S NOT ME!
?!?
OUFF!!
YOU MIGHT AS WELL GIVE UP RIGHT NOW, SUPERMAN.
I'VE ALREADY PROVEN I'M STRONGER THAN YOU!
13

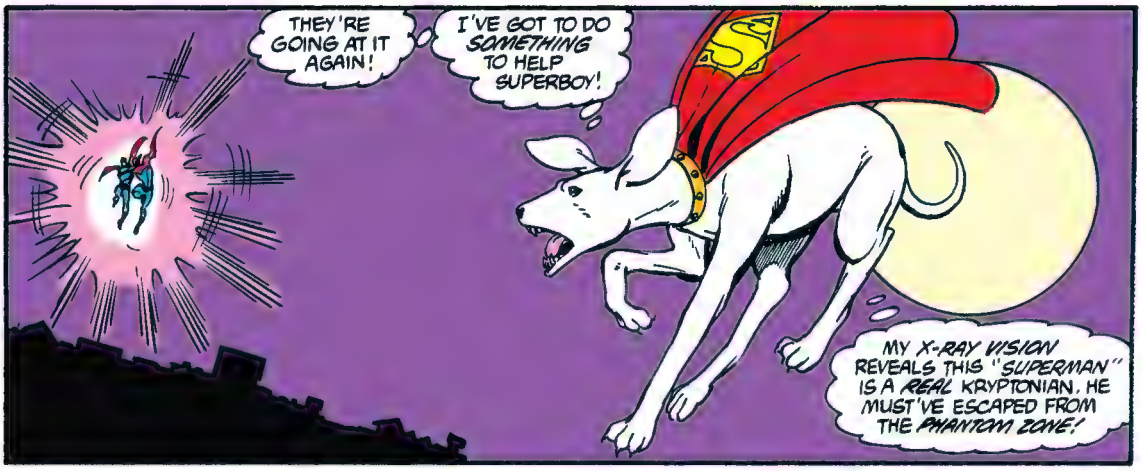

SORRY, KID.
YOU'RE GOOD. YOU'RE VERY, VERY GOOD.
AND YOU ARE A LOT STRONGER THAN ME...
OW!

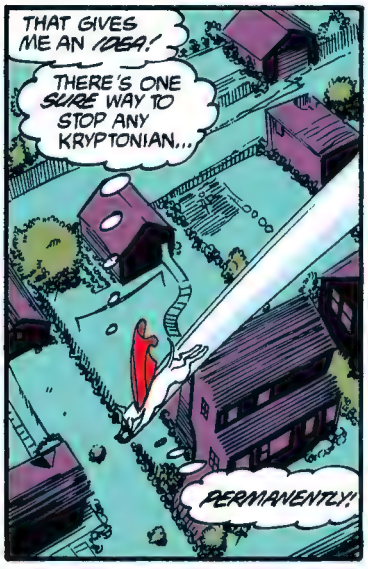

BUT I'VE GOT EXPERIENCE ON MY SIDE.
A LOT OF EXPERIENCE FIGHTING MENACES YOU'VE NEVER EVEN IMAGINED!
ONE ON ONE LIKE THIS I THINK I'VE STILL GOT A FAIR CHANCE OF STOPPING YOU!
HEY!

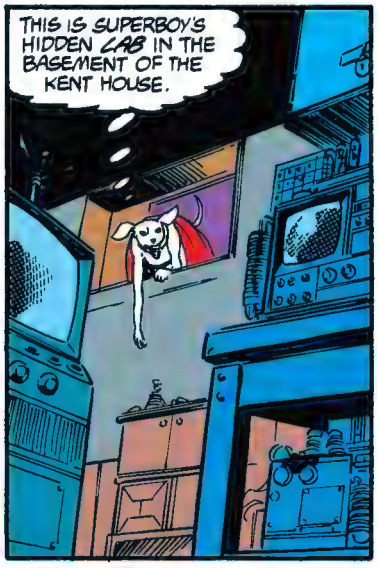

BESIDES...
FOR ALL YOUR TALK, SUPERBOY, I CAN'T SHAKE THE FEELING THAT YOUR HEART REALLY ISN'T IN...
HUH?

OH NO!
NOT THE DOG TOO!!
GRRRRR! GRRRRRR!
I DON'T KNOW WHO THIS IMPOSTOR IS...
BUT I'M NOT ABOUT TO SIT BY AND WATCH HIM BEAT UP MY MASTER!
14


LEGGO, BLAST IT! LET GO!
THIS JUST KEERS GETTING CRAZIER... AND YET...
I FIND MYSELF ENVYING SUPERBOY IN SOME WAYS,
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN FUN TO HAVE HAD A SUPER-PET WHILE I WAS GROWING UP.
HIS CAPE...!!
IT'S... TEARING...???
YIPE!
YIPE!
YIPE!
YIPE!
YIPE!
YIPE!
FUNNY...
HE SEEMED SURPRISED BY THE FACT THAT MY CAPE ISN'T INDESTRUCTIBLE...
UNGH!
GOOD WORK, KRYPTO!
YOU DISTRACTED HIM!
NOW I'LL FINISH HIM!!
15


THEY'RE GOING AT IT AGAIN!
I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING TO HELP SUPERBOY!
MY X-RAY VISION REVEALS THIS "SUPERMAN" IS A REAL KRYPTONIAN. HE MUST'VE ESCAPED FROM THE PHANTOM ZONE!


THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA!
THERE'S ONE SURE WAY TO STOP ANY KRYPTONIAN...
PERMANENTLY!

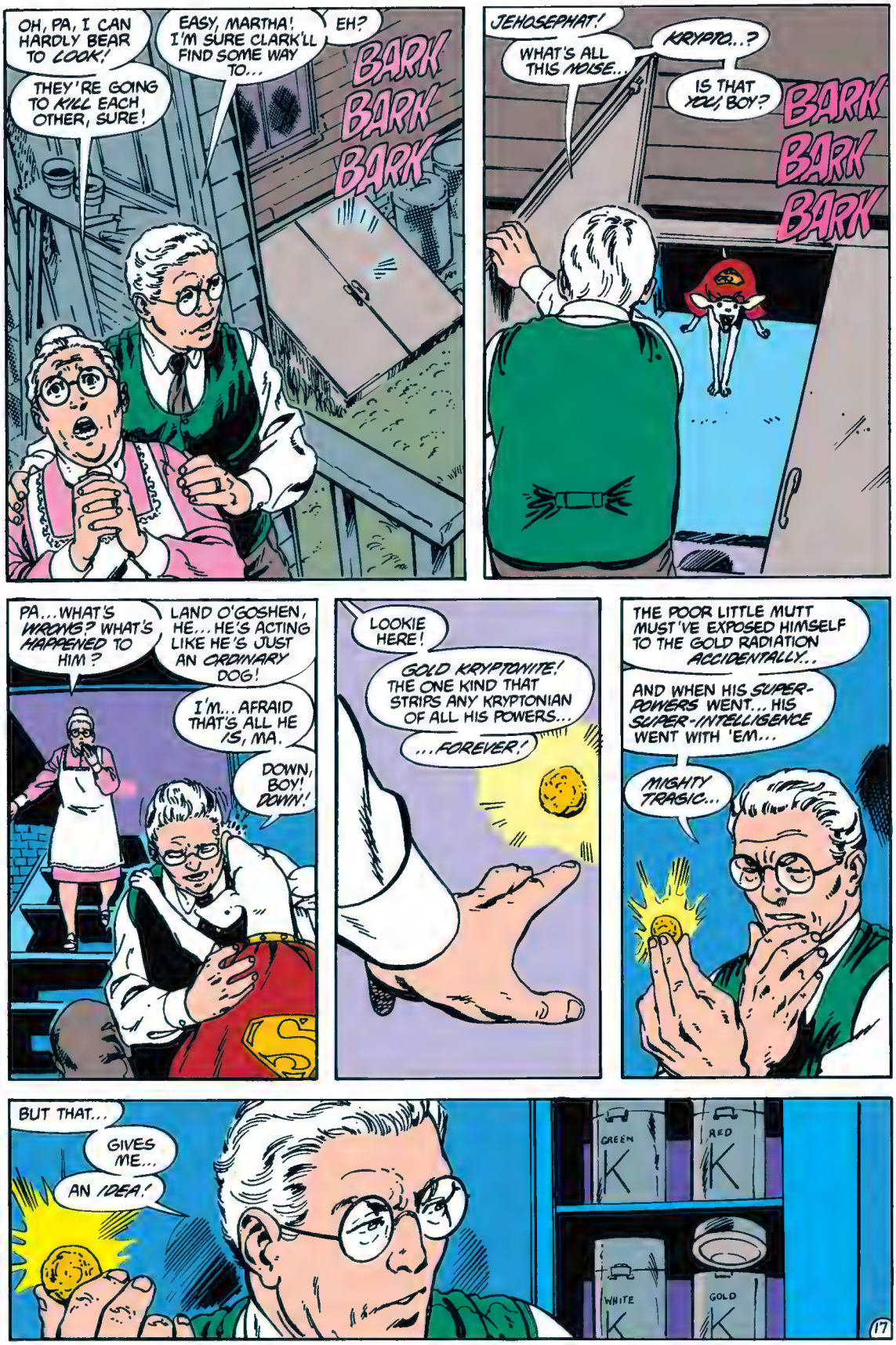

THIS IS SUPERBOY'S HIDDEN LAB IN THE BASEMENT OF THE KENT HOUSE.

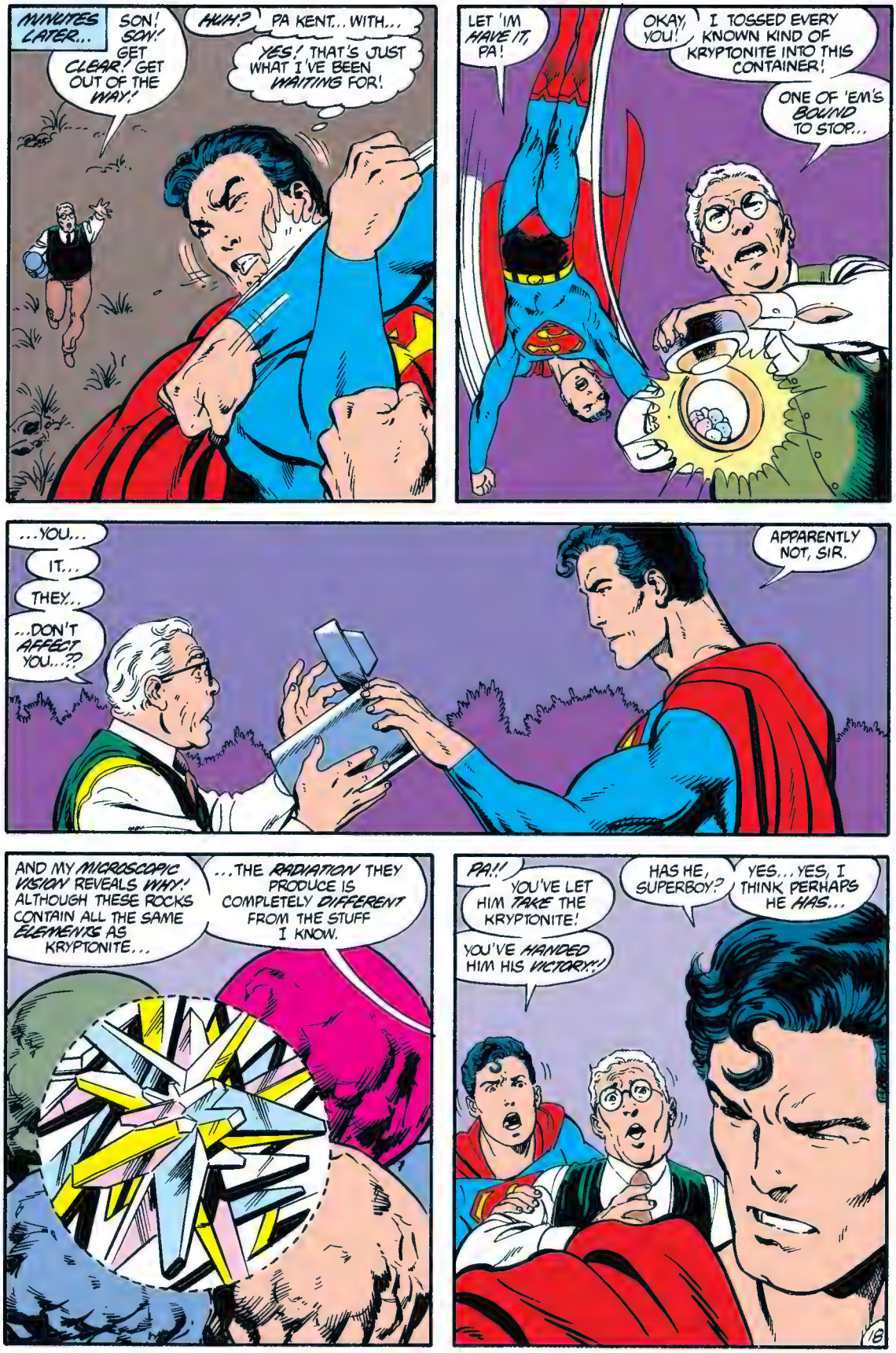
AND HERE BEHIND THIS SECRET PANEL ARE LEAD BOXES CONTAINING SAMPLES OF ALL THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF KRYPTONITE!
GREEN K
RED K
WHITE K
GOLD K

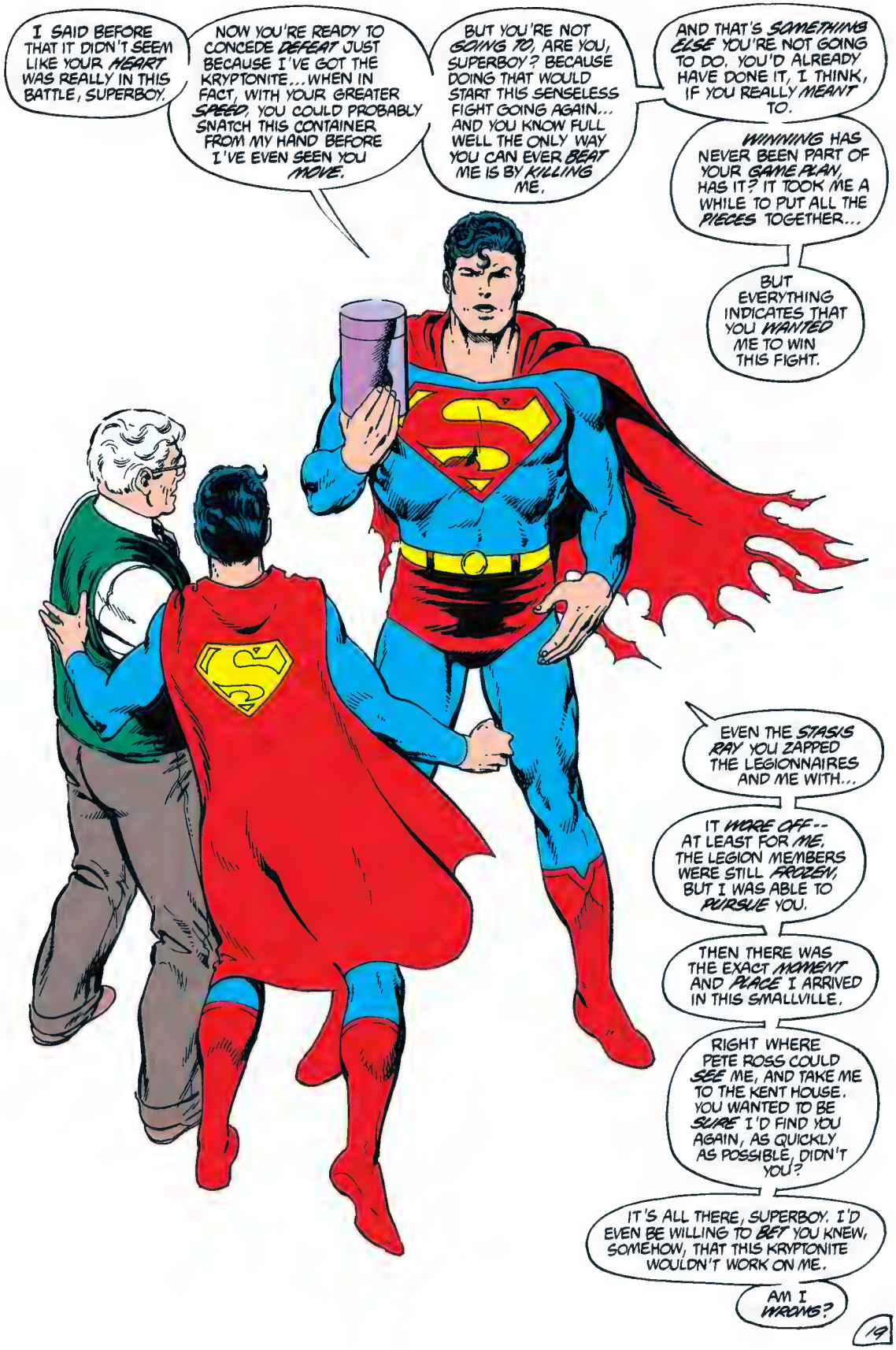
GREEN KRYPTONITE CAN KILL A KRYPTONIAN... RED K CAUSES BIZARRE PHYSICAL MUTATIONS... WHITE K KILLS ONLY PLANTS...
GOLD K
GOLD K IS THE ONE I WANT!

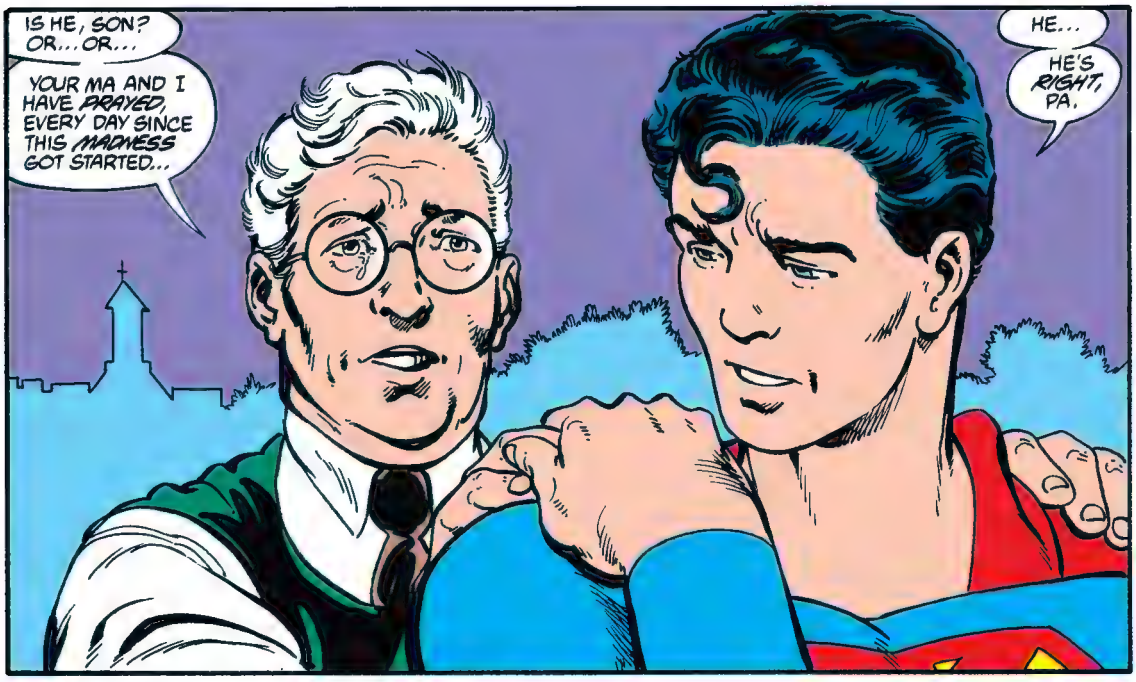
BUT... TO DO WHAT I WANT TO DO WITHOUT ENDANGERING SUPERBOY, I'LL HAVE TO CARRY THE GOLD K OUT IN THE OPEN, WHERE HE CAN SEE IT!
THE LEAD CONTAINER WILL BLOCK HIS X-RAY VISION...
AND THAT MEANS...
I'LL HAVE TO EXPOSE MYSELF TO THE GOLD K RADIATION!

IT DOESN'T MATTER!
NO SACRIFICE IS TOO GREAT TO HELP MY MASTER!
CLIC!
16

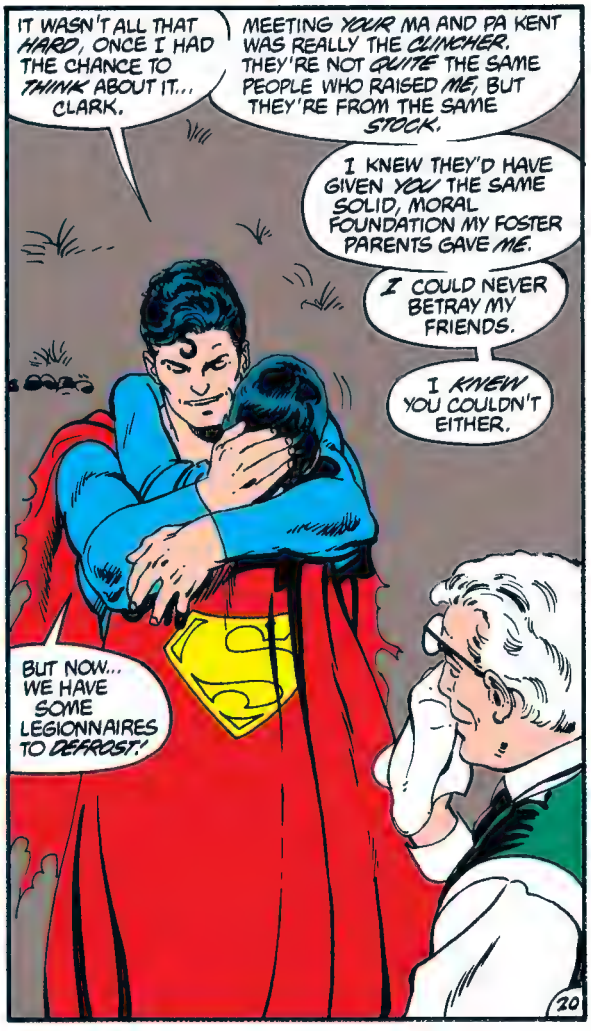

OH, PA, I CAN HARDLY BEAR TO LOOK!
THEY'RE GOING TO KILL EACH OTHER, SURE!
EASY, MARTHA! I'M SURE CLARK'LL FIND SOME WAY TO...
EH?
BARK BARK BARK
JEHOSEPHAT!
WHAT'S ALL THIS NOISE...
KRYPTO...?
IS THAT YOU, BOY?
BARK BARK BARK
PA...WHAT'S WRONG? WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HIM?
LAND O'GOSHEN, HE... HE'S ACTING LIKE HE'S JUST AN ORDINARY DOG!
I'M... AFRAID THAT'S ALL HE IS, MA.
DOWN, BOY! DOWN!
LOOKIE HERE!
GOLD KRYPTONITE! THE ONE KIND THAT STRIPS ANY KRYPTONIAN OF ALL HIS POWERS...
...FOREVER!
THE POOR LITTLE MUTT MUST'VE EXPOSED HIMSELF TO THE GOLD RADIATION ACCIDENTALLY...
AND WHEN HIS SUPER-POWERS WENT... HIS SUPER-INTELLIGENCE WENT WITH 'EM...
MIGHTY TRAGIC...
BUT THAT...
GIVES ME...
AN IDEA!
GREEN K
RED K
WHITE K
GOLD K
17


MINUTES LATER...
SON! SON! GET CLEAR! GET OUT OF THE WAY!
HUH?
PA KENT... WITH...
YES! THAT'S JUST WHAT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!
LET 'IM HAVE IT, PA!
OKAY, YOU!
I TOSSED EVERY KNOWN KIND OF KRYPTONITE INTO THIS CONTAINER!
ONE OF 'EM'S BOUND TO STOP...
...YOU...
IT...
THEY...
...DON'T AFFECT YOU...??
APPARENTLY NOT, SIR.
AND MY MICROSCOPIC VISION REVEALS WHY! ALTHOUGH THESE ROCKS CONTAIN ALL THE SAME ELEMENTS AS KRYPTONITE...
...THE RADIATION THEY PRODUCE IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM THE STUFF I KNOW.
PA!!
YOU'VE LET HIM TAKE THE KRYPTONITE!
YOU'VE HANDED HIM HIS VICTORY!!
HAS HE, SUPERBOY?
YES... YES, I THINK PERHAPS HE HAS...
18

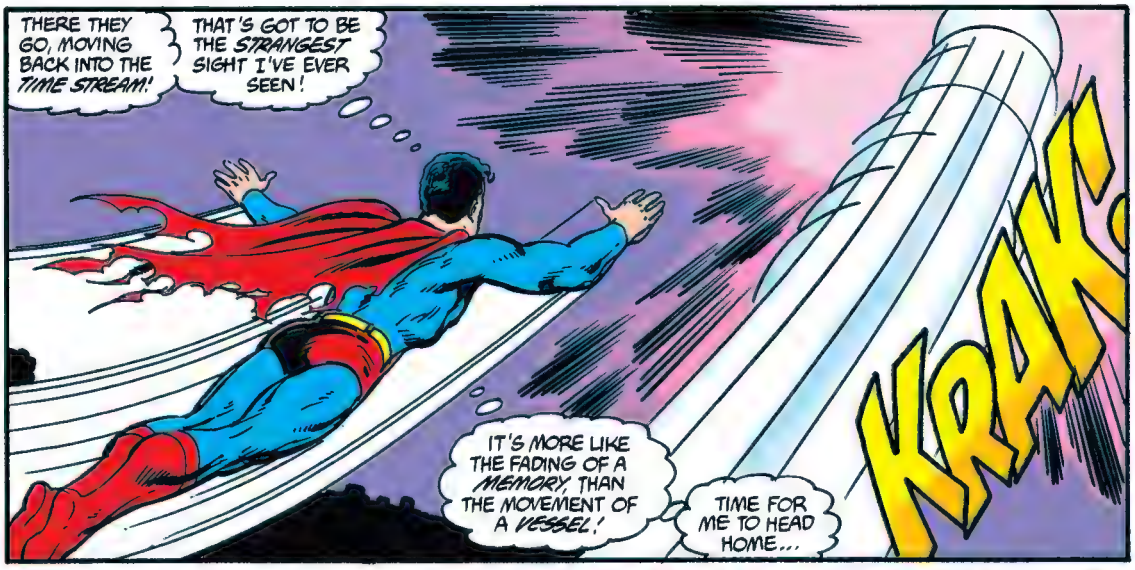

I SAID BEFORE THAT IT DIDN'T SEEM LIKE YOUR HEART WAS REALLY IN THIS BATTLE, SUPERBOY.
NOW YOU'RE READY TO CONCEDE DEFEAT JUST BECAUSE I'VE GOT THE KRYPTONITE... WHEN IN FACT, WITH YOUR GREATER SPEED, YOU COULD PROBABLY SNATCH THIS CONTAINER FROM MY HAND BEFORE I'VE EVEN SEEN YOU MOVE.
BUT YOU'RE NOT GOING TO, ARE YOU, SUPERBOY? BECAUSE DOING THAT WOULD START THIS SENSELESS FIGHT GOING AGAIN... AND YOU KNOW FULL WELL THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN EVER BEAT ME IS BY KILLING ME.
AND THAT'S SOMETHING ELSE YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DO. YOU'D ALREADY HAVE DONE IT, I THINK, IF YOU REALLY MEANT TO.
WINNING HAS NEVER BEEN PART OF YOUR GAME PLAN, HAS IT? IT TOOK ME A WHILE TO PUT ALL THE PIECES TOGETHER...
BUT EVERYTHING INDICATES THAT YOU WANTED ME TO WIN THIS FIGHT.
EVEN THE STASIS RAY YOU ZAPPED THE LEGIONNAIRES AND ME WITH...
IT WORE OFF-- AT LEAST FOR ME. THE LEGION MEMBERS WERE STILL FROZEN, BUT I WAS ABLE TO PURSUE YOU.
THEN THERE WAS THE EXACT MOMENT AND PLACE I ARRIVED IN THIS SMALLVILLE.
RIGHT WHERE PETE ROSS COULD SEE ME, AND TAKE ME TO THE KENT HOUSE. YOU WANTED TO BE SURE I'D FIND YOU AGAIN, AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, DIDN'T YOU?
IT'S ALL THERE, SUPERBOY. I'D EVEN BE WILLING TO BET YOU KNEW, SOMEHOW, THAT THIS KRYPTONITE WOULDN'T WORK ON ME.
AM I WRONG?
19

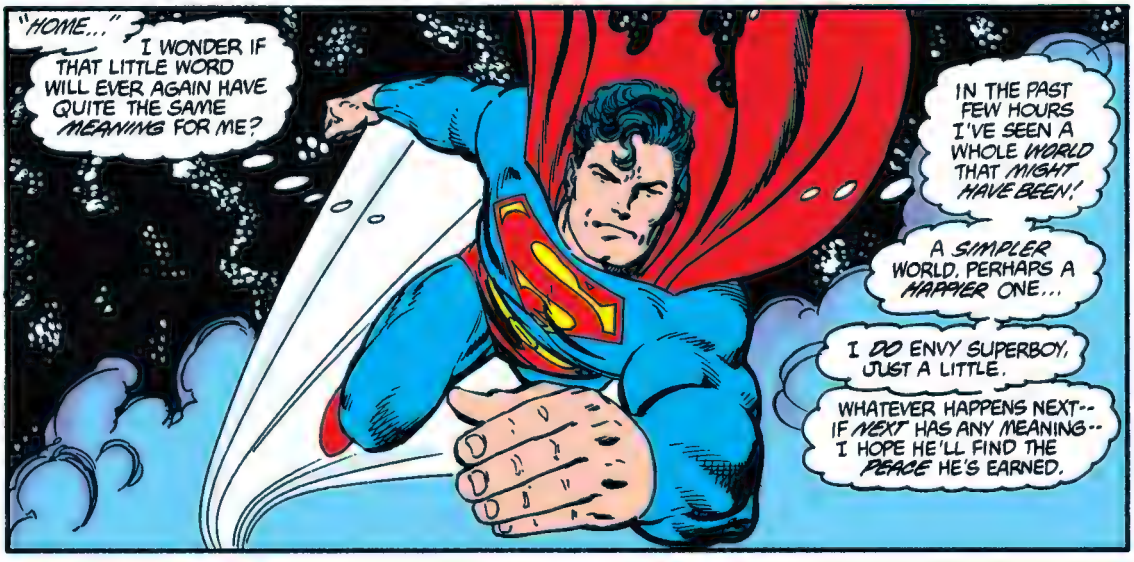

IS HE, SON? OR... OR...
YOUR MA AND I HAVE PRAYED, EVERY DAY SINCE THIS MADNESS GOT STARTED...
HE...
HE'S RIGHT, PA.

I FIXED THE STASIS RAY SO IT WOULDN'T CAST ON SUPERMAN.
I WANTED HIM TO COME AFTER ME. IT SEEMED LIKE THE ONLY WAY I COULD ESCAPE FROM THIS NIGHTMARE!
THE ONLY WAY I COULD SAVE THE LEGION... WITHOUT SACRIFICING EVERYONE I'VE EVER LOVED!
IF SUPERMAN COULD ONLY DEFEAT ME IN BATTLE...
BUT... HOW COULD YOU GUESS MY PLAN, SUPERMAN? HOW COULD YOU BE SURE?

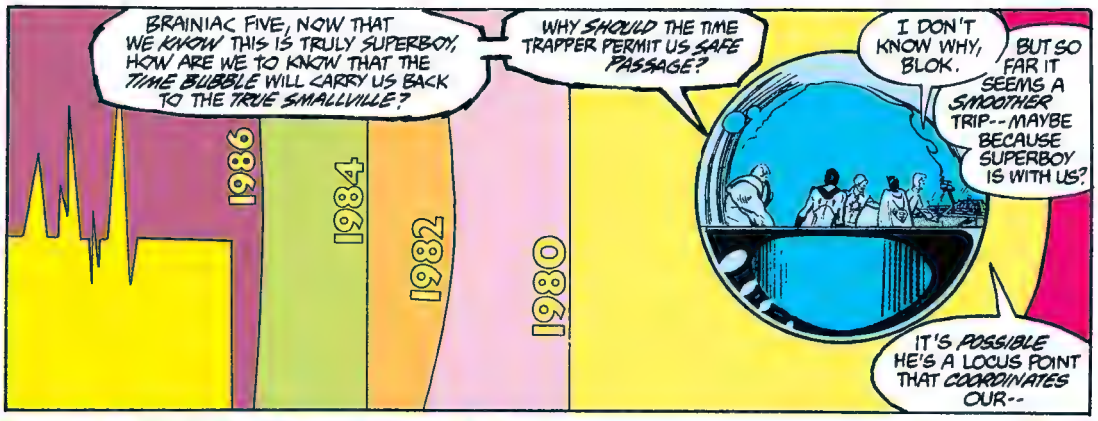

IT WASN'T ALL THAT HARD, ONCE I HAD THE CHANCE TO THINK ABOUT IT... CLARK.
MEETING YOUR MA AND PA KENT WAS REALLY THE CLINCHER. THEY'RE NOT QUITE THE SAME PEOPLE WHO RAISED ME, BUT THEY'RE FROM THE SAME STOCK.
I KNEW THEY'D HAVE GIVEN YOU THE SAME SOLID, MORAL FOUNDATION MY FOSTER PARENTS GAVE ME.
I COULD NEVER BETRAY MY FRIENDS.
I KNEW YOU COULDN'T EITHER.
BUT NOW... WE HAVE SOME LEGIONNAIRES TO DEFROST!
20

AND SO...
...HOPE WE NEVER HAVE TO GO THROUGH ANYTHING LIKE THAT AGAIN!
YEAH... I STILL FEEL... WEIRD!
THANKS, SUPERBOY.
I KNEW YOU'D NEVER WILLINGLY BETRAY US.
I SHOULD BE THANKING YOU, BRAINY.
YOUR FAITH IN ME MEANS A LOT!
BUT NOW...
IT'S HIGH TIME WE GOT AFTER THIS TIME TRAPPER OF YOURS. HE'S STILL GOT FOUR OF YOUR MEMBERS PRISONER!
YES, IT IS, SUPERMAN.
BUT YOU'RE NOT COMING WITH US!
WHAT??
WE DON'T DARE RISK IT, SUPERMAN. IF THE TIME TRAPPER WINS YOU MIGHT BE KILLED, OR TRAPPED FOREVER AT THE END OF TIME!
WE CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN! YOU BELONG IN THE 20TH CENTURY, SUPERMAN.
THERE IS STILL MUCH FOR YOU TO DO THERE--
--TO MAKE OUR TIME POSSIBLE!
I... GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO TAKE YOUR WORD FOR THAT ONE, WON'T I?
ALL RIGHT, LEGIONNAIRES. I DON'T LIKE IT... BUT I'LL LET YOU GO ON WITHOUT ME.
AFTER YOU GIVE ME A LIFT BACK TO MY PROPER TIME AND PLACE...
TEN MINUTES, AND TEN YEARS LATER...
THERE'S METROPOLIS, 1987!
GOODBYE, SUPERMAN!
I'VE GOT A FEELING WE'LL NEVER MEET AGAIN!
GOODBYE, SUPERBOY..
AND...
GOOD LUCK!
21


THERE THEY GO, MOVING BACK INTO THE TIME STREAM!
THAT'S GOT TO BE THE STRANGEST SIGHT I'VE EVER SEEN!
IT'S MORE LIKE THE FADING OF A MEMORY, THAN THE MOVEMENT OF A VESSEL!
TIME FOR ME TO HEAD HOME...
KRAK

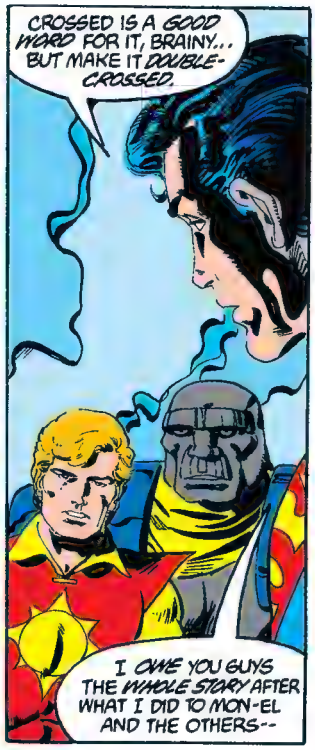

"HOME..."
I WONDER IF THAT LITTLE WORD WILL EVER AGAIN HAVE QUITE THE SAME MEANING FOR ME?
IN THE PAST FEW HOURS I'VE SEEN A WHOLE WORLD THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN!
A SIMPLER WORLD, PERHAPS A HAPPIER ONE...
I DO ENVY SUPERBOY, JUST A LITTLE.
WHATEVER HAPPENS NEXT-- IF NEXT HAS ANY MEANING-- I HOPE HE'LL FIND THE PEACE HE'S EARNED.

LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES®
THE TIME STREAM, SOMEWHERE IN THE 20TH CENTURY:
MES AMIS, I DO NOT MIND ADMITTING IT-- I AM EXHAUSTED!
I FEEL LIKE THE MAN WHO HAS DONE TEN IMPOSSIBLE THINGS BEFORE BREAKFAST!
IF YOU FEEL WEIRD, INVISIBLE KID, IMAGINE WHAT'S GOING ON IN MY HEAD!
WE JUST TRAVELLED INTO WHAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE MY FUTURE--
--AND THE SUPERMAN WHO LIVES THERE SURE ISN'T ME!
NONETHELESS, SUPERBOY, LET US BE GRATEFUL TO HIM.
FOR HE LET US DISCOVER THAT YOU TRULY ARE OUR OLD FRIEND AND FELLOW LEGIONNAIRE...
THE GREATEST HERO OF THEM ALL
PAUL LEVITZ writer · GREG LaROCQUE & MIKE DeCARLO Artists
JOHN COSTANZA letterer · CARL GAFFORD colorist · ARNE STARR Ink Assist
KAREN BERGER · Editor
Dedicated to the memory of E.N.B., in the hope that he would have approved.

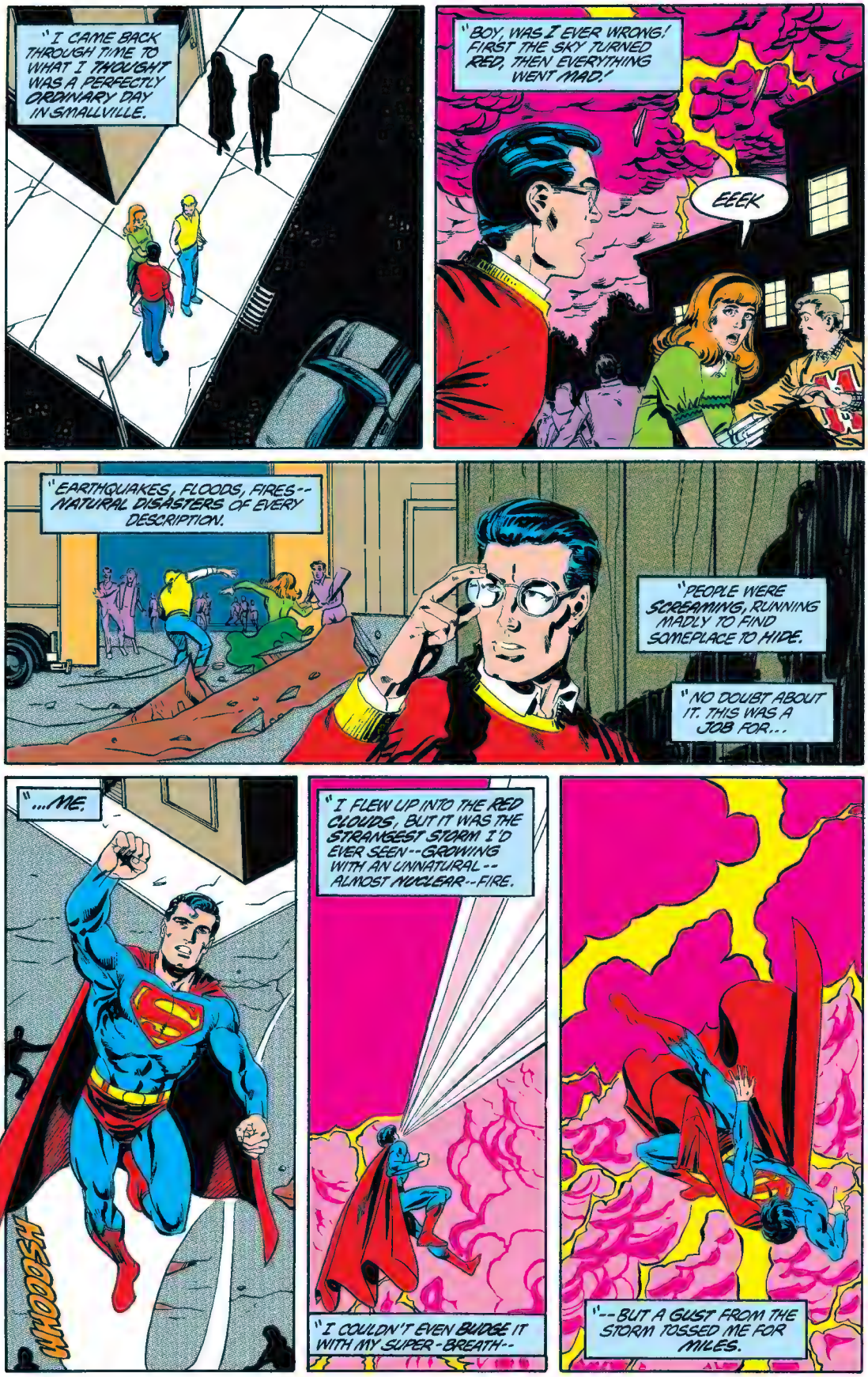

BRAINIAC FIVE, NOW THAT WE KNOW THIS IS TRULY SUPERBOY, HOW ARE WE TO KNOW THAT THE TIME BUBBLE WILL CARRY US BACK TO THE TRUE SMALLVILLE?
WHY SHOULD THE TIME TRAPPER PERMIT US SAFE PASSAGE?
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BLOK.
BUT SO FAR IT SEEMS A SMOOTHER TRIP--MAYBE BECAUSE SUPERBOY IS WITH US?
IT'S POSSIBLE HE'S A LOCUS POINT THAT COORDINATES OUR--
1986
1984
1982
1980

ENOUGH!
MY POOR HEAD CANNOT CONTAIN ALL YOUR THEORIES, BRAINIAC FIVE.
ADMIT IT, BRAINY. EVEN YOU'RE CONFUSED.
HARDLY, SUN BOY.

I AM SIMPLY UNSURE OF THE LIMITS OF THE TAM-PERING THE TIME TRAPPER HAS INFLICTED ON THE TIME STREAM.
SOMEHOW, HE HAS CROSSED TWO TOTALLY CONTRADICTORY TIME POSSIBILITIES--WHICH IS THEORETICALLY IMPOSSIBLE.

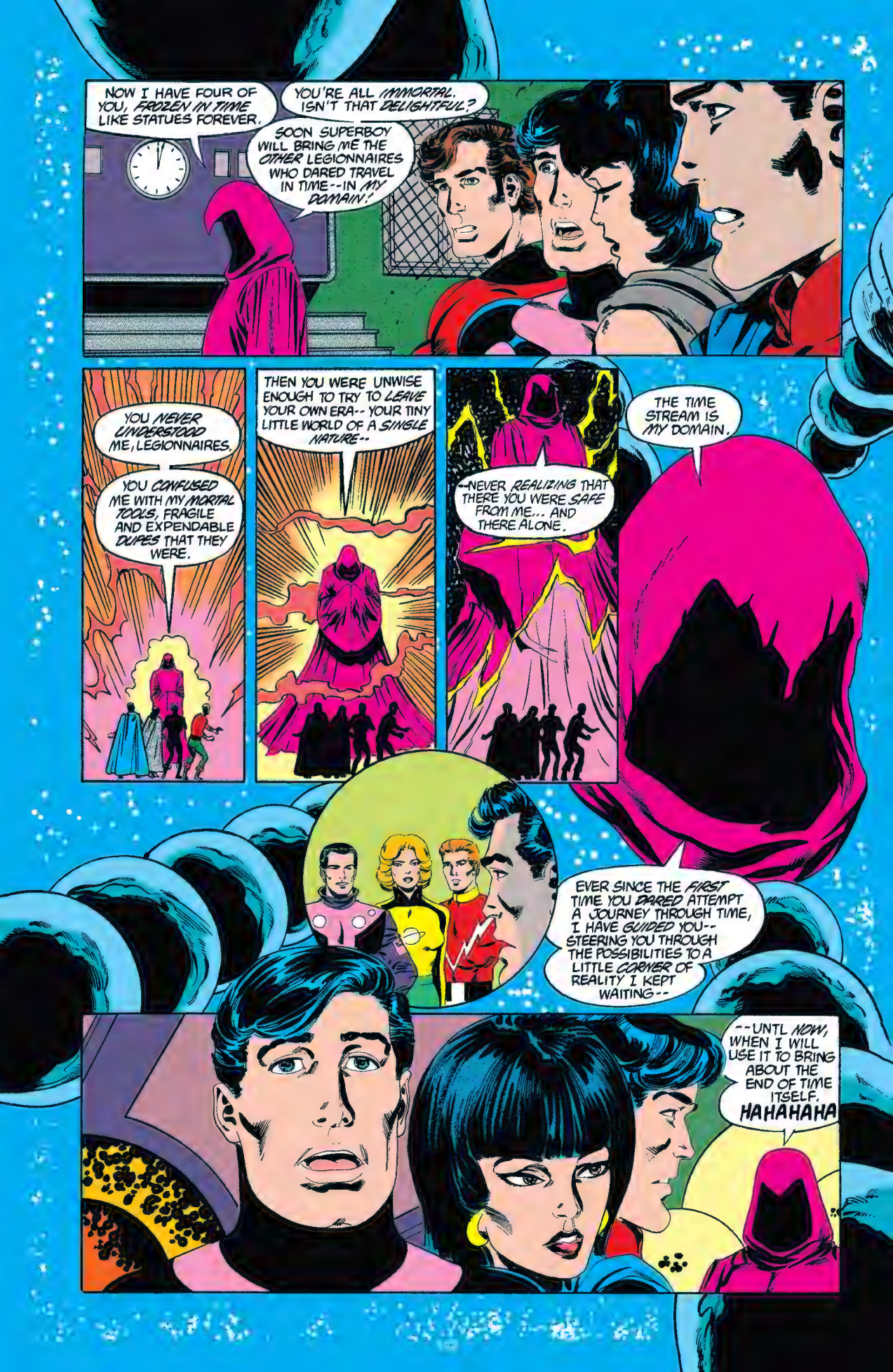

CROSSED IS A GOOD WORD FOR IT, BRAINY... BUT MAKE IT DOUBLE-CROSSED.
I OWE YOU GUYS THE WHOLE STORY AFTER WHAT I DID TO MON-EL AND THE OTHERS--

--BUT MAYBE WHEN I'VE TOLD YOU, YOU'LL UNDERSTAND.
MAYBE.
IT BEGAN RIGHT AFTER THE LAST TIME I VISITED YOU--WHEN WE FOUND A CURE FOR MON-EL'S LEAD POISONING...

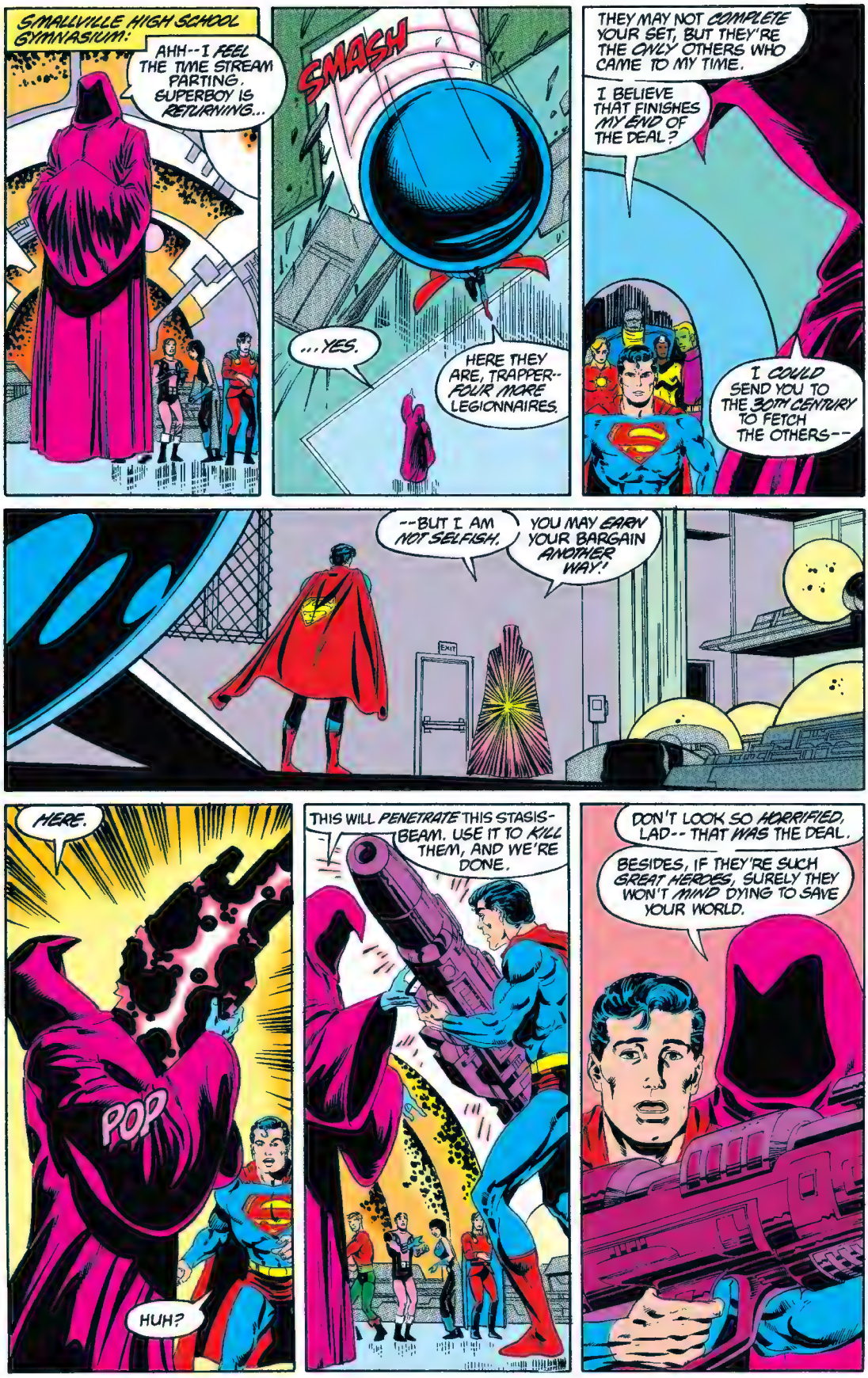

"I CAME BACK THROUGH TIME TO WHAT I THOUGHT WAS A PERFECTLY ORDINARY DAY IN SMALLVILLE.
"BOY, WAS I EVER WRONG! FIRST THE SKY TURNED RED, THEN EVERYTHING WENT MAD!"
EEEK
"EARTHQUAKES, FLOODS, FIRES--NATURAL DISASTERS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.
"PEOPLE WERE SCREAMING, RUNNING MADLY TO FIND SOMEPLACE TO HIDE.
"NO DOUBT ABOUT IT. THIS WAS A JOB FOR...
"...ME.
KSSOOOM
"I FLEW UP INTO THE RED CLOUDS, BUT IT WAS THE STRANGEST STORM I'D EVER SEEN--GROWING WITH AN UNNATURAL--ALMOST NUCLEAR--FIRE.
"I COULDN'T EVEN BUDGE IT WITH MY SUPER-BREATH--
"--BUT A GUST FROM THE STORM TOSSED ME FOR MILES.

"THEN IT GOT WORSE--A WHOLE WALL OF ANTI-MATTER EMERGED FROM THE STORM, AND STARTED DESTROYING THE EARTH WHEREVER IT TOUCHED GROUND.
"INCH BY INCH, IT WAS DISINTEGRATING MY ADOPTED PLANET--
"--AND THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO.
KRACK
"I COULDN'T EVEN ANALYZE IT WITH MY SUPER-VISION--
"--BUT IT WAS EASY TO SEE IT WAS HEADING FOR THE CENTER OF SMALLVILLE.
"I FLEW STRAIGHT AT IT--FIGURED I'D TRY ANYTHING--
"--AND THEN HE APPEARED... THE TIME TRAPPER."
WAIT, SUPERBOY.
DO NOT THROW YOUR LIFE AWAY UNTIL YOU HAVE HEARD WHAT I HAVE TO SAY!

SMALLVILLE HIGH:
SEE, MY FROZEN LEGIONNAIRES?
I OFFERED YOUR POOR FRIEND SUPERBOY A DEAL TOO TEMPTING TO REFUSE.
I WOULD CREATE A DEVICE THAT COULD SAVE HIS PRECIOUS EARTH FOR HIM--
--PLACED HERE, SAFELY IN THE MIDST OF SMALLVILLE CASTING ITS PROTECTIVE POWER AROUND HIS WORLD!
ALL THIS I WOULD DO IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS COOPERATION.
PERHAPS HE BELIEVED AFTER I SAVED EARTH HE WOULD FIND A WAY TO BETRAY ME. HE ALWAYS WAS OVERCONFIDENT.
I ALLOWED YOUR TEAM OF LEGION-NAIRES THROUGH THE TIME STREAM, BACK TO SMALL-VILLE WHERE YOU WISHED TO GO--
--AND THEN COMMANDED SUPERBOY TO CAPTURE YOU WITH A STASIS BEAM I GAVE HIM.


NOW I HAVE FOUR OF YOU, FROZEN IN TIME LIKE STATUES FOREVER.
YOU'RE ALL IMMORTAL. ISN'T THAT DELIGHTFUL?
SOON SUPERBOY WILL BRING ME THE OTHER LEGIONNAIRES WHO DARED TRAVEL IN TIME--IN MY DOMAIN!
YOU NEVER UNDERSTOOD ME, LEGIONNAIRES.
YOU CONFUSED ME WITH MY MORTAL TOOLS, FRAGILE AND EXPENDABLE DUPES THAT THEY WERE.
THEN YOU WERE UNWISE ENOUGH TO TRY TO LEAVE YOUR OWN ERA-- YOUR TINY LITTLE WORLD OF A SINGLE NATURE--
--NEVER REALIZING THAT THERE YOU WERE SAFE FROM ME... AND THERE ALONE.
THE TIME STREAM IS MY DOMAIN.
EVER SINCE THE FIRST TIME YOU DARED ATTEMPT A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME, I HAVE GUIDED YOU-- STEERING YOU THROUGH THE POSSIBILITIES TO A LITTLE CORNER OF REALITY I KEPT WAITING--
--UNTIL NOW, WHEN I WILL USE IT TO BRING ABOUT THE END OF TIME ITSELF. HAHAHAHA

SMALLVILLE:
ARE YOU GUYS READY? SMALLVILLE HIGH IS JUST AHEAD.
WHOOOOSH
WE'RE PREPARED, SUPERBOY-- I'VE FROZEN THE OTHERS WITH A DEVICE THAT WILL SIMULATE THE STASIS-BEAM YOU USED ON OUR COMRADES--
--BUT WHICH WE CAN BREAK BY SIMPLE CONCENTRATION.
LET ME TURN THE BEAM ON MYSELF, AND YOU CAN DELIVER US AS YOUR "PRISONERS".
GOOD LUCK, SUPERBOY.
THANKS, BRAINY.
I WAS PLANNING TO STOP THE TIME TRAPPER AND SAVE THE LEGIONNAIRES AFTER HE PROTECTED EARTH PERMANENTLY--
--BUT NOW I'VE GOT A BETTER CHANCE OF PULLING IT OFF.
I HAVE TO DO IT!
FOR MA AND PA KENT-- AND EVERYBODY.
OF ALL THE WORLDS THAT I COULD HAVE LANDED ON AFTER KRYPTON'S DESTRUCTION, I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANOTHER AS BEAUTIFUL AS EARTH! I'M NOT GOING TO LET IT PERISH, TOO.


SMALLVILLE HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM:
AHH--I FEEL THE TIME STREAM PARTING. SUPERBOY IS RETURNING...
SMASH
...YES.
HERE THEY ARE, TRAPPER-- FOUR MORE LEGIONNAIRES.
THEY MAY NOT COMPLETE YOUR SET, BUT THEY'RE THE ONLY OTHERS WHO CAME TO MY TIME.
I BELIEVE THAT FINISHES MY END OF THE DEAL?
I COULD SEND YOU TO THE 30TH CENTURY TO FETCH THE OTHERS--
--BUT I AM NOT SELFISH.
YOU MAY EARN YOUR BARGAIN ANOTHER WAY!
EXIT
HERE.
POP
HUH?
THIS WILL PENETRATE THIS STASIS-BEAM. USE IT TO KILL THEM, AND WE'RE DONE.
DON'T LOOK SO HORRIFIED, LAD-- THAT WAS THE DEAL.
BESIDES, IF THEY'RE SUCH GREAT HEROES, SURELY THEY WON'T MIND DYING TO SAVE YOUR WORLD.

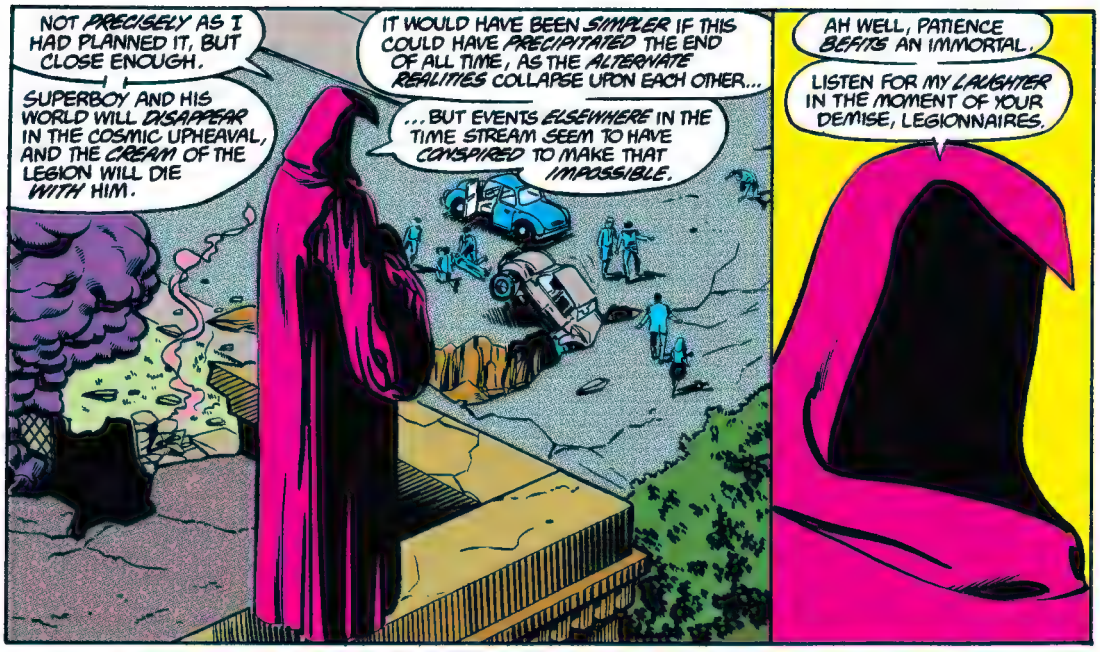
WILL THEY?
N...NO...
EXIT
BUT I DO.
I'VE NEVER TAKEN A HUMAN LIFE, AND I'M NOT STARTING WITH MY FRIENDS!
KRUNCHH
TAKE YOUR BLASTER--AND YOUR DEAL!
TSK, TSK.
AND I THOUGHT YOU LOVED YOUR EARTH.
NOW YOU'LL HAVE TO WATCH IT DISINTEGRATE.
OVER OUR DEAD BODIES, TRAPPER.
THAT'S TELLING HIM, SUPERBOY!

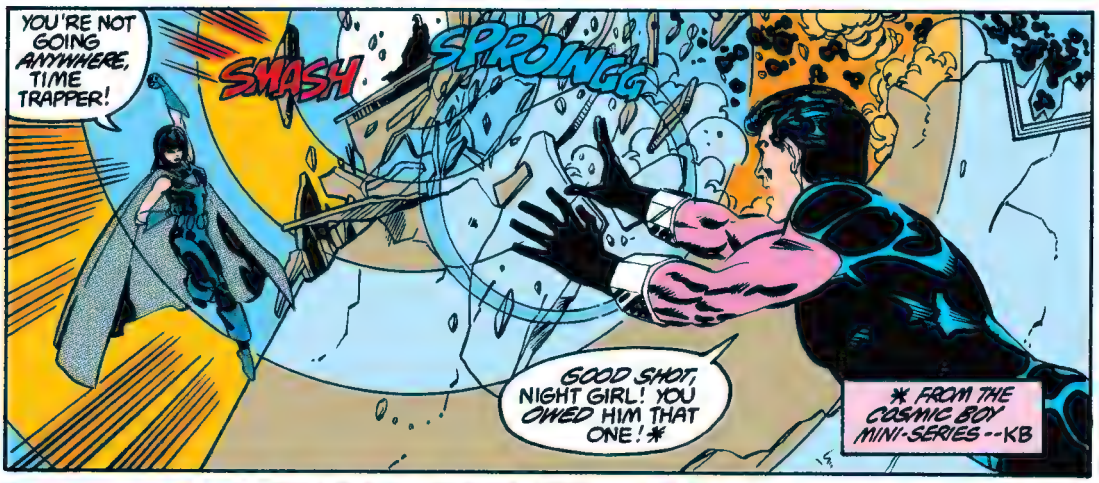
AH, SO YOU THINK YOU CAN TURN MY TRAP AGAINST ME?
I'LL GRANT YOU THIS, MORTALS--
--YOU DO NOT DREAM SMALL DREAMS.
BUT I DO NOT NEED TO DREAM.
I AM THE END OF EVERYTHING -- THE DARKNESS THAT WAITS AT THE MOMENT OF DOOM--
--I AM ENTROPY ITSELF INCARNATE!
AND I WILL NOT BE DENIED!
KEEP AT HIM, LEGIONNAIRES!
THOOOM
HA HA HA HA

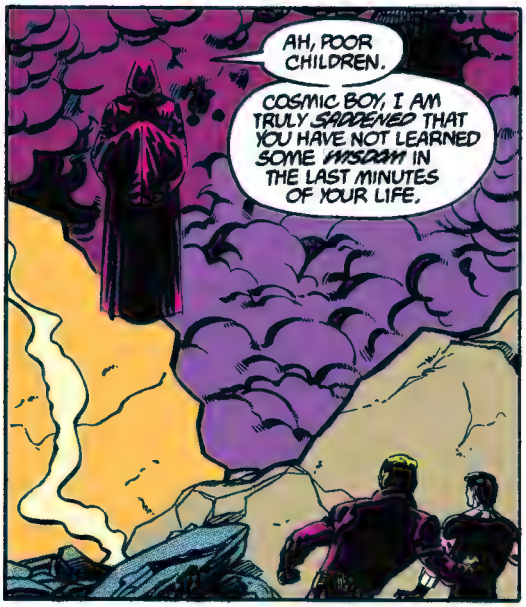
LAUGH THIS OFF, TRAPPER!
FSHOOOM
SSIZZLEE
THAT'S IT! I'VE GOT IT--
--BASED ON WHAT SUPERBOY KNEW OF THE STASIS-RAY HE ASSEMBLED, THIS SHOULD REVERSE IT!
SORRY TO HAVE LEFT YOU FROZEN SO LONG, MY FRIENDS, BUT WE HAD TO SMUGGLE THIS REVERSER IN AS COMPONENTS!
BZZZT
NOW, THE PROBABILITIES ARE A LITTLE BETTER!
FOOLS! EVEN IF THERE WERE AN ARMY OF YOU, IT WOULD MATTER NOT!
SPROING
ZZLAP
GOOD THING WE'RE NOT JUST AN ARMY, THEN, TRAPPER--
--WE'RE A LEGION!

POOR MORTALS.
FHOOP
YOU HAVE SEEN HOW IMPOTENT YOUR LEGIONNAIRE FRIENDS ARE TO HARM ME, SUPERBOY.
I SHALL BE GENEROUS BECAUSE IT AMUSES ME-- YOU HAVE ONE LAST CHANCE TO JOIN ME IN DESTROYING THEM--
--OR I WILL DEACTIVATE THE DEVICE THAT POSTPONES YOUR WORLD'S DOOM. CHOOSE.
DAMN YOU, TRAPPER--
--NEITHER!
WHAPPP
KABOOM
"HA HA HA PERFECTLY DONE, SUPERBOY! YOU'VE SEEN FOR YOURSELF HOW LITTLE HARM YOU CAN DO TO ME--
"--AND SMASHED THE VERY DEVICE THAT HELD YOUR CHERISHED WORLD INTACT."

SMALLVILLE:
BON DIEU! WE CANNOT BE EVERYWHERE!
SPROING
AWESOME-- AS SOON AS THAT DEVICE EXPLODED, THE TRAPPER VANISHED--
--AND ALL THE DISASTERS STARTED AGAIN!
I HAVE SAVED THIS GIRL, SUN BOY. BUT CAN THE OTHERS STOP THE COSMIC STORM?
"CAN ANYONE... EVEN THEY?"
KATHOOOOM


NOT PRECISELY AS I HAD PLANNED IT, BUT CLOSE ENOUGH.
SUPERBOY AND HIS WORLD WILL DISAPPEAR IN THE COSMIC UPHEAVAL, AND THE CREAM OF THE LEGION WILL DIE WITH HIM.
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SIMPLER IF THIS COULD HAVE PRECIPITATED THE END OF ALL TIME, AS THE ALTERNATE REALITIES COLLAPSE UPON EACH OTHER...
...BUT EVENTS ELSEWHERE IN THE TIME STREAM SEEM TO HAVE CONSPIRED TO MAKE THAT IMPOSSIBLE.
AH WELL, PATIENCE BEFITS AN IMMORTAL.
LISTEN FOR MY LAUGHTER IN THE MOMENT OF YOUR DEMISE, LEGIONNAIRES.


YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE, TIME TRAPPER!
SMASH
SPRONGG
GOOD SHOT, NIGHT GIRL! YOU OWED HIM THAT ONE! *
* FROM THE COSMIC BOY MINI-SERIES --KB


AH, POOR CHILDREN.
COSMIC BOY, I AM TRULY SADDENED THAT YOU HAVE NOT LEARNED SOME WISDOM IN THE LAST MINUTES OF YOUR LIFE.

AND YOU, BRAINIAC FIVE? YOU STRUGGLE ON AS WELL?
I THOUGHT A MORTAL WISE ENOUGH TO UNCOVER SOME OF TIME'S SECRETS MIGHT HAVE BEEN WISE ENOUGH TO ADMIT DEFEAT.
NEVER... EVEN IF YOU DESTROY THE PAST SO WE HAVE NO FUTURE TO GO BACK TO.

THIS NEVER WAS YOUR PAST, LEGIONNAIRE.
ONLY A WHISPERY POSSIBILITY I CONNECTED YOU TO, WHEN YOU WERE PRESUMPTUOUS ENOUGH TO TRY TO TRAVEL THROUGH TIME.
EACH TIME YOU "BROKE" THE TIME BARRIER, I SENT YOU HERE--UNTIL THIS EARTH BEGAN TO FALL APART, AND THE JEST PALED. FAREWELL.
HOLD IT, TRAPPER.
A FORCE FIELD, TO HOLD ME?
YOU ARE AMUSING.
THEN THE 30TH CENTURY WILL SURVIVE?
ALL CENTURIES WILL--ON YOUR EARTH, THE TRUE EARTH. BUT YOU WON'T.
WE WILL.
HAHAHAHA
HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA HA HA

IMAGINE--TWO DIFFERENT REALITIES--EACH WITH THEIR OWN HISTORY.
THAT'S WHY THAT SUPERMAN HAD NEVER MET US--OR BEEN A SUPERBOY.
AND HIS TIME--THE 20TH CENTURY I VISITED--THAT WAS OUR REAL PAST, NOT THIS?
HOW COULD I HAVE NEVER DETECTED THE TIME TRAPPER'S MANIPULATION OF THE TIME STREAM--AND OF MY INVENTIONS?
IT DOESN'T MATTER, BRAINY.
WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING, NOT DISCUSS THEORIES!
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN POSSIBLY UNDERSTAND THE TRAPPER'S MACHINERY--FIX IT!
SAVE THIS EARTH--AND US!
I--I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT TECHNOLOGY HE USED--THE POWER SOURCES ARE ENORMOUS--AND UNCONTROLLED!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE, COSMIC BOY--MAYBE IF I HAD SOME INERTRON AND A NUCLEAR FORGE--
BADOOM

WHAT--WHAT WAS THAT NOISE?
ANOTHER EXPLOSION FROM SMALLVILLE HIGH?
OF COURSE!
THE TRAPPER'S MACHINERY--THAT'S THE ONLY WAY TO STOP THIS COSMIC STORM!
SUPERBOY!
WHOOOSH
LOOKS LIKE HE'S GOT AN IDEA, MON-EL. SHOULD WE FOLLOW HIM?
NOTHING TO LOSE, ULTRA BOY--WE'RE NOT DOING ANY GOOD HERE.
TH-THE ENERGIES ARE TOO STRONG. THERE'S NOTHING REALLY BROKEN EXCEPT THE CONTAINMENT VESSEL--
-- BUT THERE'S NO WAY TO FIX THAT!
YES THERE IS, BRAINY!
WHOOOSH
SUPERBOY--NO!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
REPAIRING WHAT WE BROKE, BRAINY.
IF WHAT'S NEEDED IS SOMETHING TO CHANNEL THE ENERGIES--

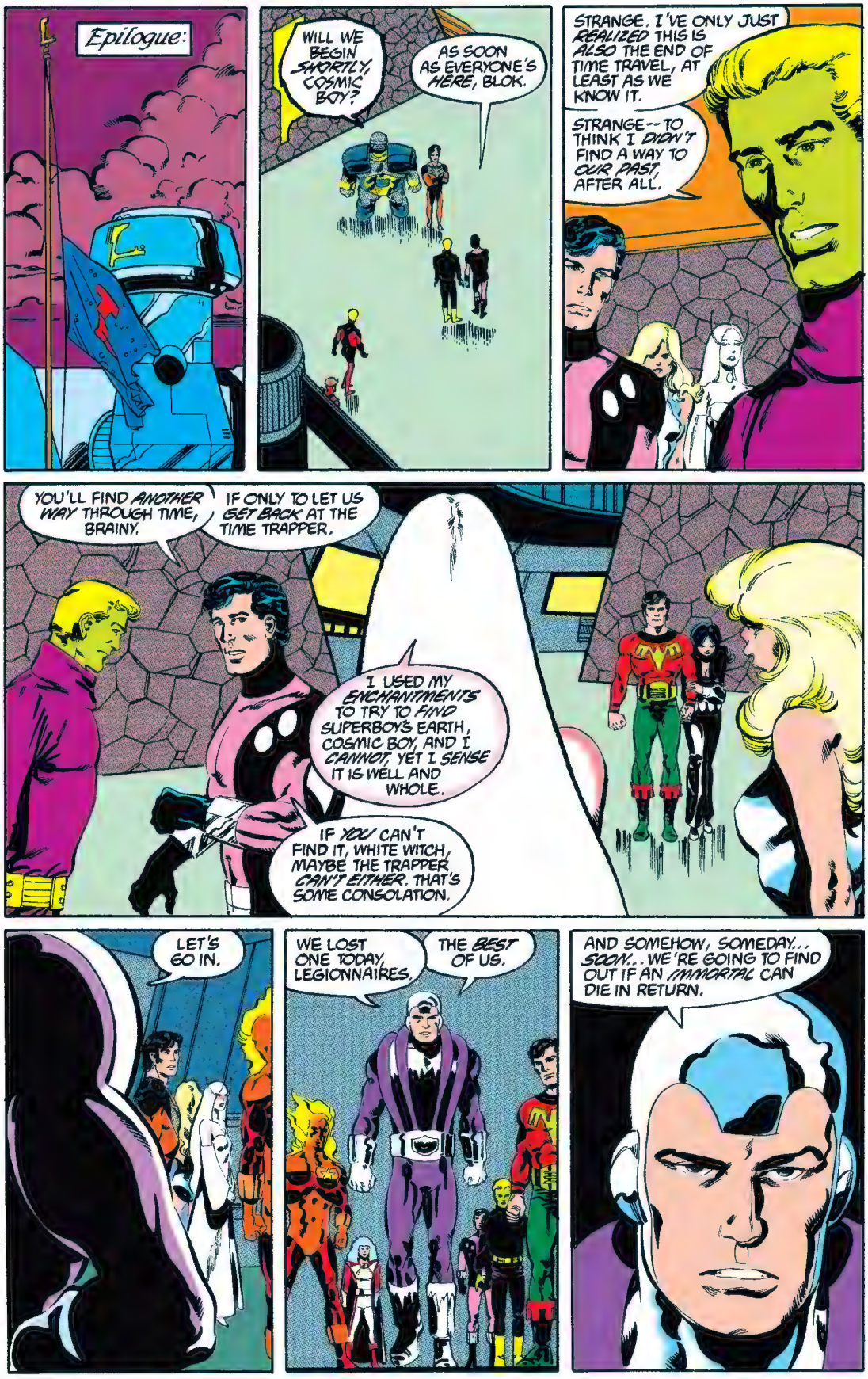
--I'M IT!
AYEIIIII
HE'S TRYING TO HOLD THE DEVICE TOGETHER BODILY-- REPLACING THE BROKEN UNIT WITH HIMSELF!
EVEN SUPERBOY CAN'T STAND THOSE ENERGIES FOR LONG!
KRAC
OOOOOM
HE'S KILLING HIMSELF!
SUPERBOY!
THERE'S ANOTHER WAY, SUPERBOY-- LET US HELP!
NO--
--THIS IS MY WORLD, AND MAYBE THIS IS WHY I WAS SENT HERE, YEARS AGO.
GO BACK TO YOUR FUTURE, MY FRIENDS, AND SAVE YOURSELVES!
--AND IF I CAN, I'LL SAVE MY WORLD--
--NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES!

HE'S RECONNECTED IT--DON'T YOU FEEL IT?
WE'RE BEING TRANSPORTED AWAY!
AYEEEEEEE!!!!!!
NOOOO...
MY GOD, PETE, WHAT--?
DON'T EVEN THINK IT, LANA, DON'T!
EVERYONE, BE CALM! TRUST SUPERBOY--HE'LL SAVE US!
PLEASE, SUPERBOY--
PA! DON'T CRY, MA--HE MIGHT HEAR US.
I... I'M... DONE...

I--I CAN READ THE ENERGY PULSES--
--EARTH-- EARTH'S BEING PULLED A-AWAY--
--SOMEWHERE SAFE--OHHH...
QUICKLY-- GET HIM TO THE TIME BUBBLE.
I MIGHT BE ABLE TO SAVE HIM IN THE MULTI-LAB!
D-DON'T WORRY, I-I'M OKAY.
EARTH'S SAFE, RIGHT?
ABSOLUTELY. I SAW IT WITH MY SUPER-VISION-- WE JUST MOVED AWAY FROM THAT COSMIC STORM-- INTO SOMEWHERE ELSE.
THE TRAPPER'S MACHINE MOVED THIS WHOLE UNIVERSE SOMEHOW-- TO SAFETY.
GOOD.
TIME BUBBLE READY, BRAINIAC.
WE'RE COMING, BLOK.
W-WAIT-- I HAVE TO--
SUPERBOY!
--DO THIS!
WHANGGG

YOU--YOU HEARD WHAT THE TRAPPER SAID ABOUT HOW HE CONTROLLED WHAT REALITIES THE TIME BUBBLE COULD REACH!
CAN'T LET HIM STOP YOU FROM GETTING BACK TO YOUR WORLD, NOW THAT WE'VE SAVED MINE!
UNHHHH
1970
1980
2000
2100
2987
I--I ALWAYS COULD TRAVEL THROUGH TIME-- GET TO YOUR METROPOLIS ON MY OWN!
MAYBE 'CAUSE OF SOMETHING THE TRAPPER DID TO ME, OR MAYBE IT WAS THE TIME BEACON--
--OR MAYBE JUST BECAUSE I ALWAYS COULD DO ANYTHING I REALLY, TRULY HAD TO DO!
AND I'LL BE DAMNED IF I'LL LET THE TIME TRAPPER--OR ANYTHING-- STOP ME NOW!

KRACK
SUPERBOY!
UNHHH... WE MADE IT, MON-EL.
BRAINY-- MEET ME AT THE MULTI-LAB!
MON-EL...
T-TAKE CARE OF EARTH FOR ME...
IT-- IT WAS THE NICEST HOME A BOY COULD WANT...
SUPERBOY...
KRASH
S-SUPERBOY..


Epilogue:
WILL WE BEGIN SHORTLY, COSMIC BOY?
AS SOON AS EVERYONE'S HERE, BLOK.
STRANGE. I'VE ONLY JUST REALIZED THIS IS ALSO THE END OF TIME TRAVEL, AT LEAST AS WE KNOW IT.
STRANGE--TO THINK I DIDN'T FIND A WAY TO OUR PAST, AFTER ALL.
YOU'LL FIND ANOTHER WAY THROUGH TIME, BRAINY.
IF ONLY TO LET US GET BACK AT THE TIME TRAPPER.
I USED MY ENCHANTMENTS TO TRY TO FIND SUPERBOY'S EARTH, COSMIC BOY, AND I CANNOT, YET I SENSE IT IS WELL AND WHOLE.
IF YOU CAN'T FIND IT, WHITE WITCH, MAYBE THE TRAPPER CAN'T EITHER. THAT'S SOME CONSOLATION.
LET'S GO IN.
WE LOST ONE TODAY, LEGIONNAIRES.
THE BEST OF US.
AND SOMEHOW, SOMEDAY... SOON... WE'RE GOING TO FIND OUT IF AN IMMORTAL CAN DIE IN RETURN.

HE WAS A *LEGEND.*

I *LOVED* HIM, YOU KNOW.

HE WAS A REAL *FRIEND.*

I *NEVER MET* A *BETTER* MAN.

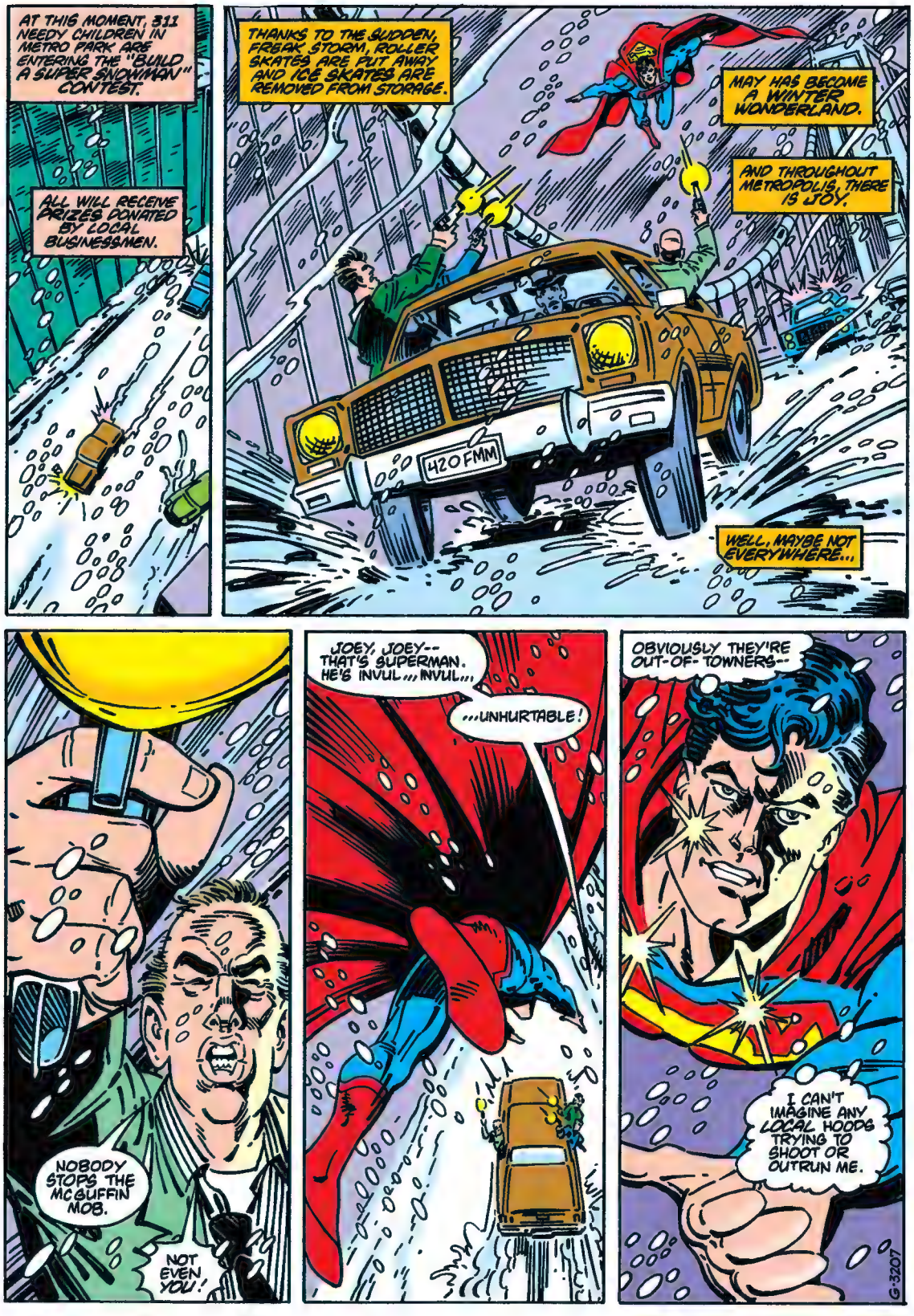
HE CALLED ME HIS *BROTHER*, AND TOOK ME INTO HIS *HOME*. AND FROM THE DAY WE MET, HE THOUGHT OF ME *EVERY DAY* OF HIS LIFE.

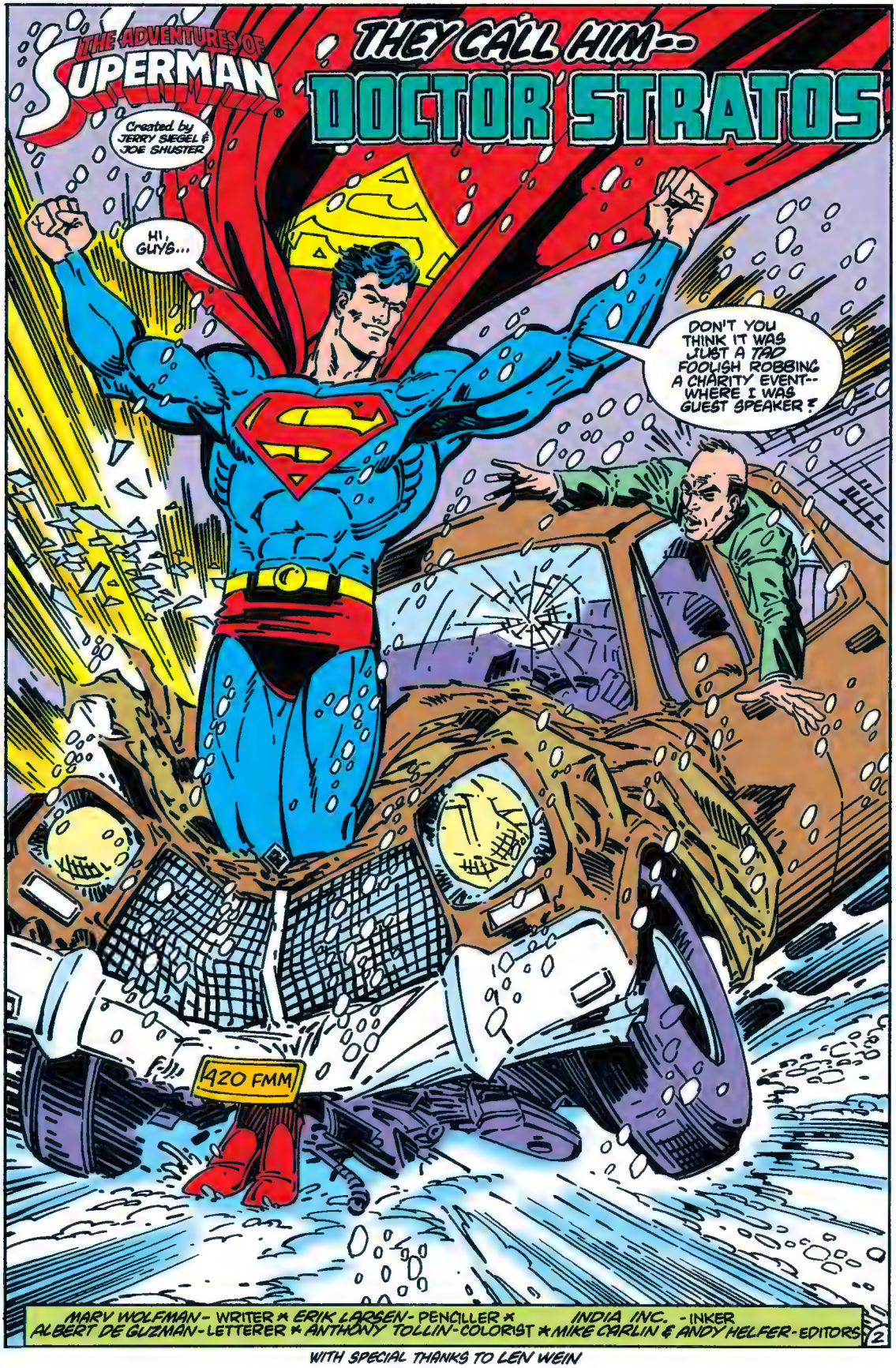
SLEEP WELL, KAL-EL, CLARK... MY BROTHER.

HE SAVED MY LIFE.

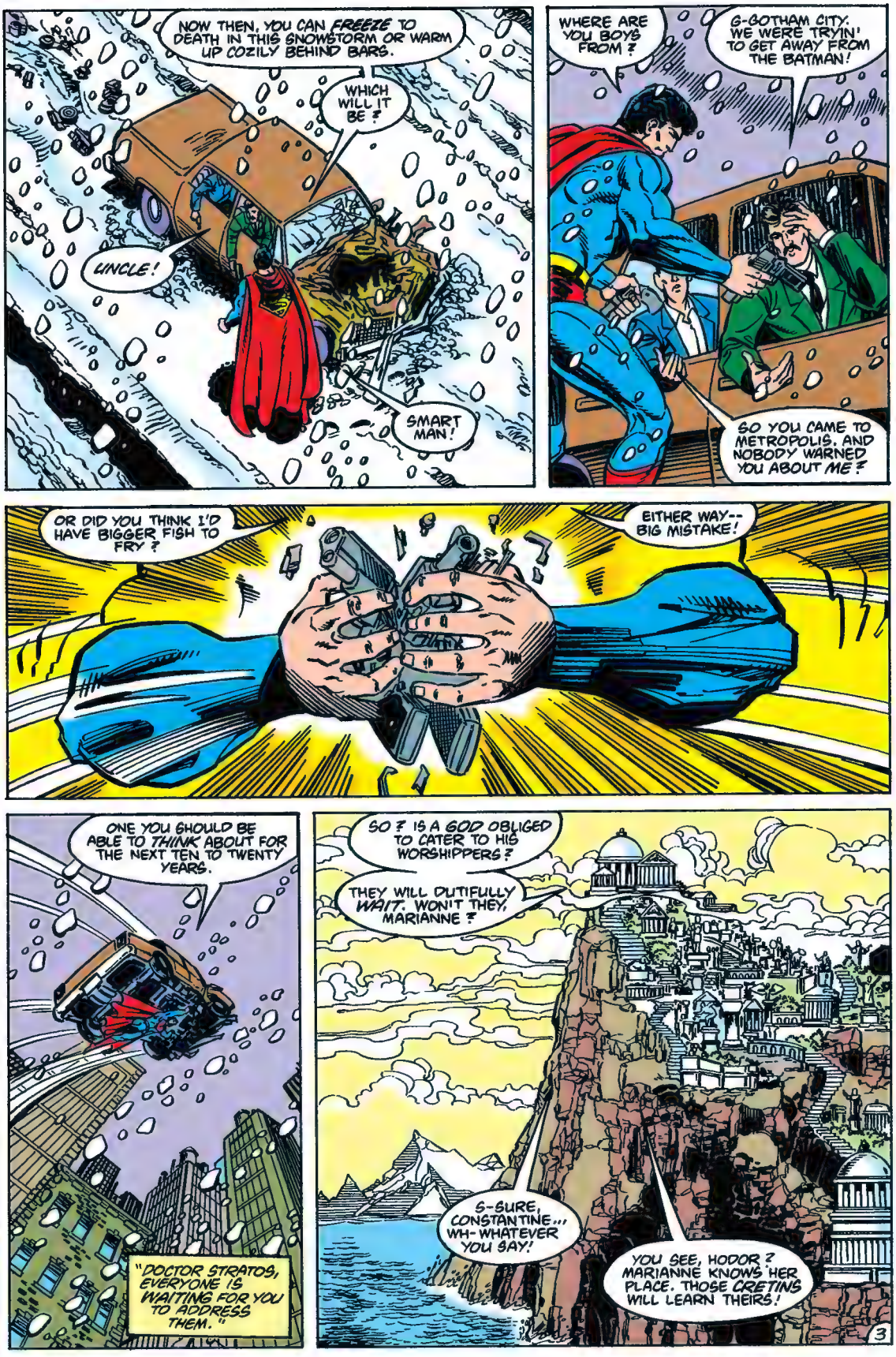
HE WAS THE *GREATEST* HERO OF THEM ALL.

The End

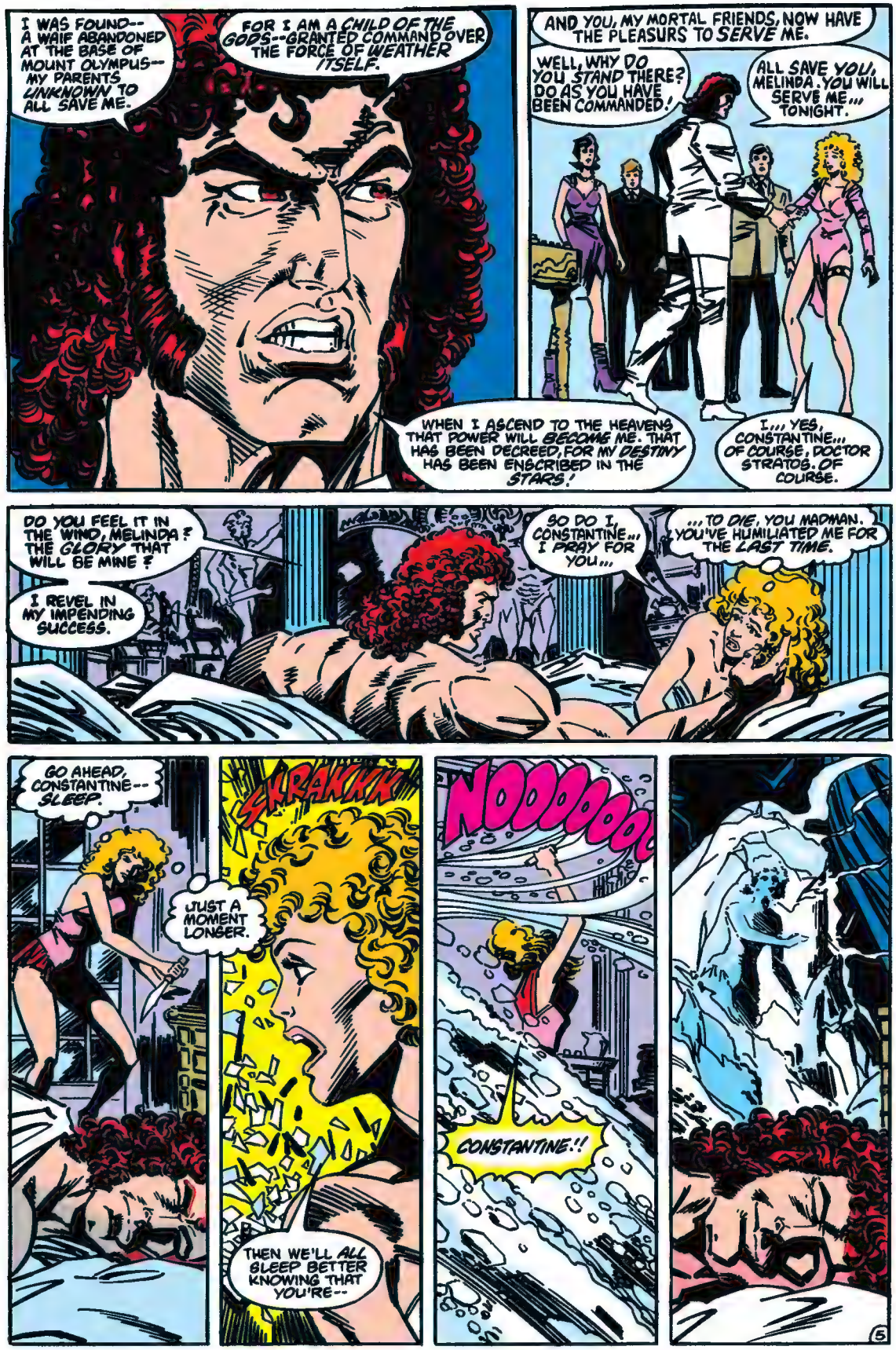

AT THIS MOMENT, 311 NEEDY CHILDREN IN METRO PARK ARE ENTERING THE "BUILD A SUPER SNOWMAN" CONTEST.
ALL WILL RECEIVE PRIZES DONATED BY LOCAL BUSINESSMEN.
THANKS TO THE SUDDEN, FREAK STORM, ROLLER SKATES ARE PUT AWAY AND ICE SKATES ARE REMOVED FROM STORAGE.
MAY HAS BECOME A WINTER WONDERLAND.
AND THROUGHOUT METROPOLIS, THERE IS JOY.
420FMM
WELL, MAYBE NOT EVERYWHERE...
NOBODY STOPS THE MCGUFFIN MOB.
NOT EVEN YOU!
JOEY, JOEY-- THAT'S SUPERMAN. HE'S INVUL... INVUL...
...UNHURTABLE!
OBVIOUSLY THEY'RE OUT-OF-TOWNERS--
I CAN'T IMAGINE ANY LOCAL HOODS TRYING TO SHOOT OR OUTRUN ME.
G-3207

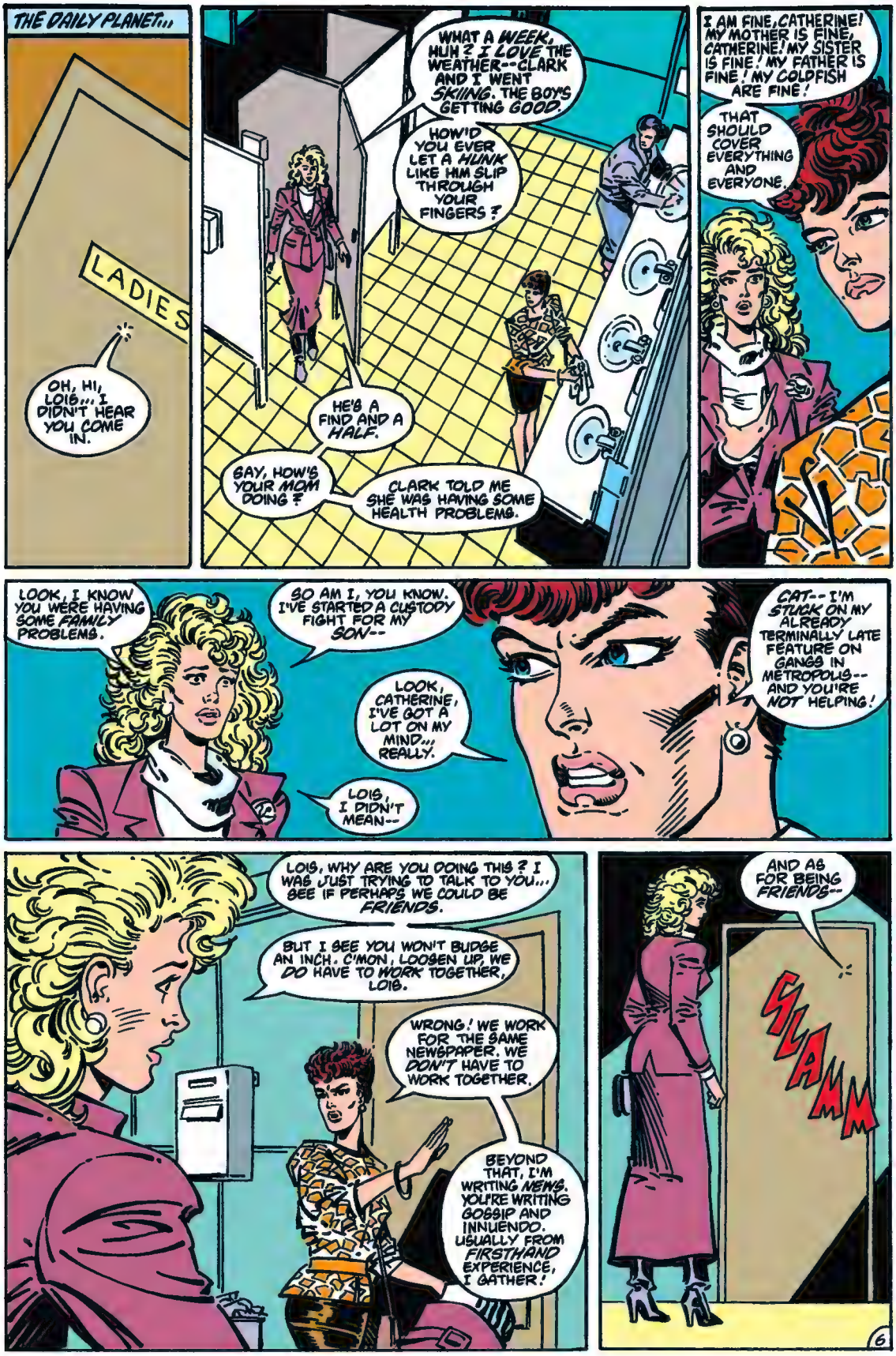

THE ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
THEY CALL HIM--
DOCTOR STRATOS
HI, GUYS...
DON'T YOU THINK IT WAS JUST A TAD FOOLISH ROBBING A CHARITY EVENT-- WHERE I WAS GUEST SPEAKER?
420 FMM
MARV WOLFMAN - WRITER ★ ERIK LARSEN - PENCILLER ★ INDIA INC. - INKER
ALBERT DE GUZMAN - LETTERER ★ ANTHONY TOLLIN - COLORIST ★ MIKE CARLIN & ANDY HELFER - EDITORS
2

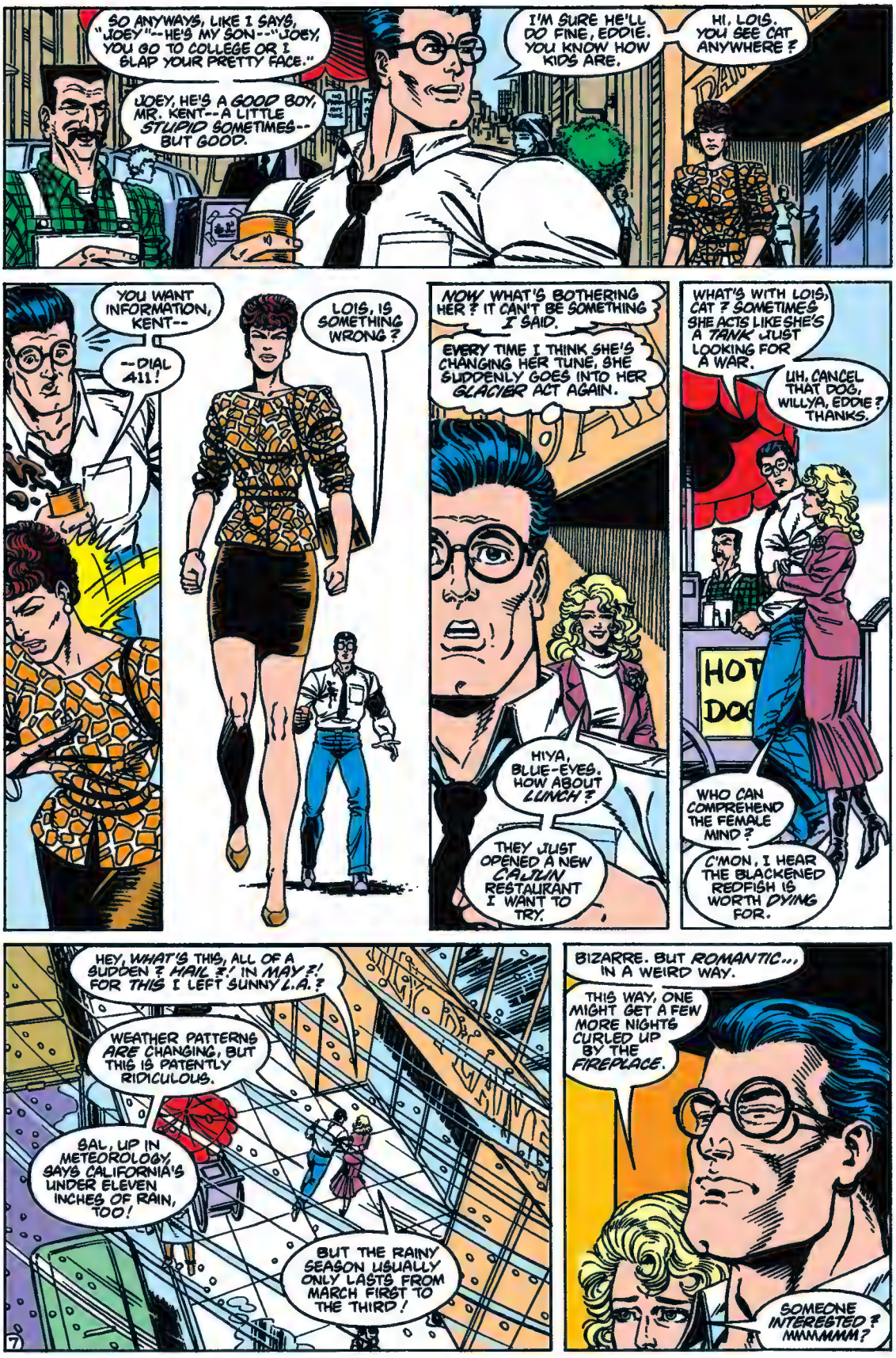
WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO LEN WEIN

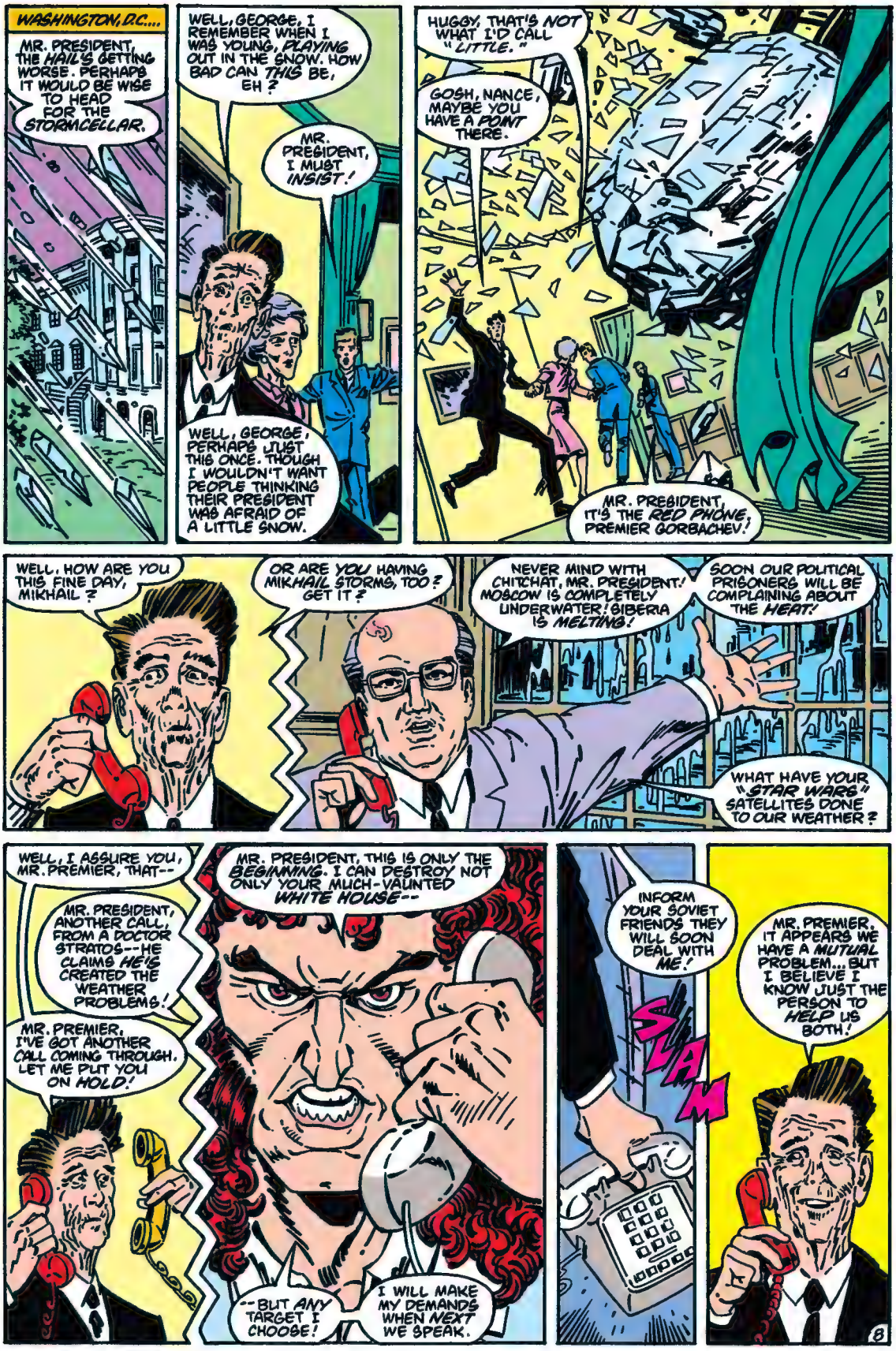

NOW THEN, YOU CAN FREEZE TO DEATH IN THIS SNOWSTORM OR WARM UP COZILY BEHIND BARS.
WHICH WILL IT BE?
UNCLE!
SMART MAN!
WHERE ARE YOU BOYS FROM?
G-GOTHAM CITY. WE WERE TRYIN' TO GET AWAY FROM THE BATMAN!
SO YOU CAME TO METROPOLIS, AND NOBODY WARNED YOU ABOUT ME?
OR DID YOU THINK I'D HAVE BIGGER FISH TO FRY?
EITHER WAY-- BIG MISTAKE!
ONE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO THINK ABOUT FOR THE NEXT TEN TO TWENTY YEARS.
"DOCTOR STRATOS, EVERYONE IS WAITING FOR YOU TO ADDRESS THEM."
SO? IS A GOD OBLIGED TO CATER TO HIS WORSHIPPERS?
THEY WILL DUTIFULLY WAIT. WON'T THEY, MARIANNE?
S-SURE, CONSTANTINE... WH-WHATEVER YOU SAY!
YOU SEE, HODOR? MARIANNE KNOWS HER PLACE. THOSE CRETINS WILL LEARN THEIRS!
3

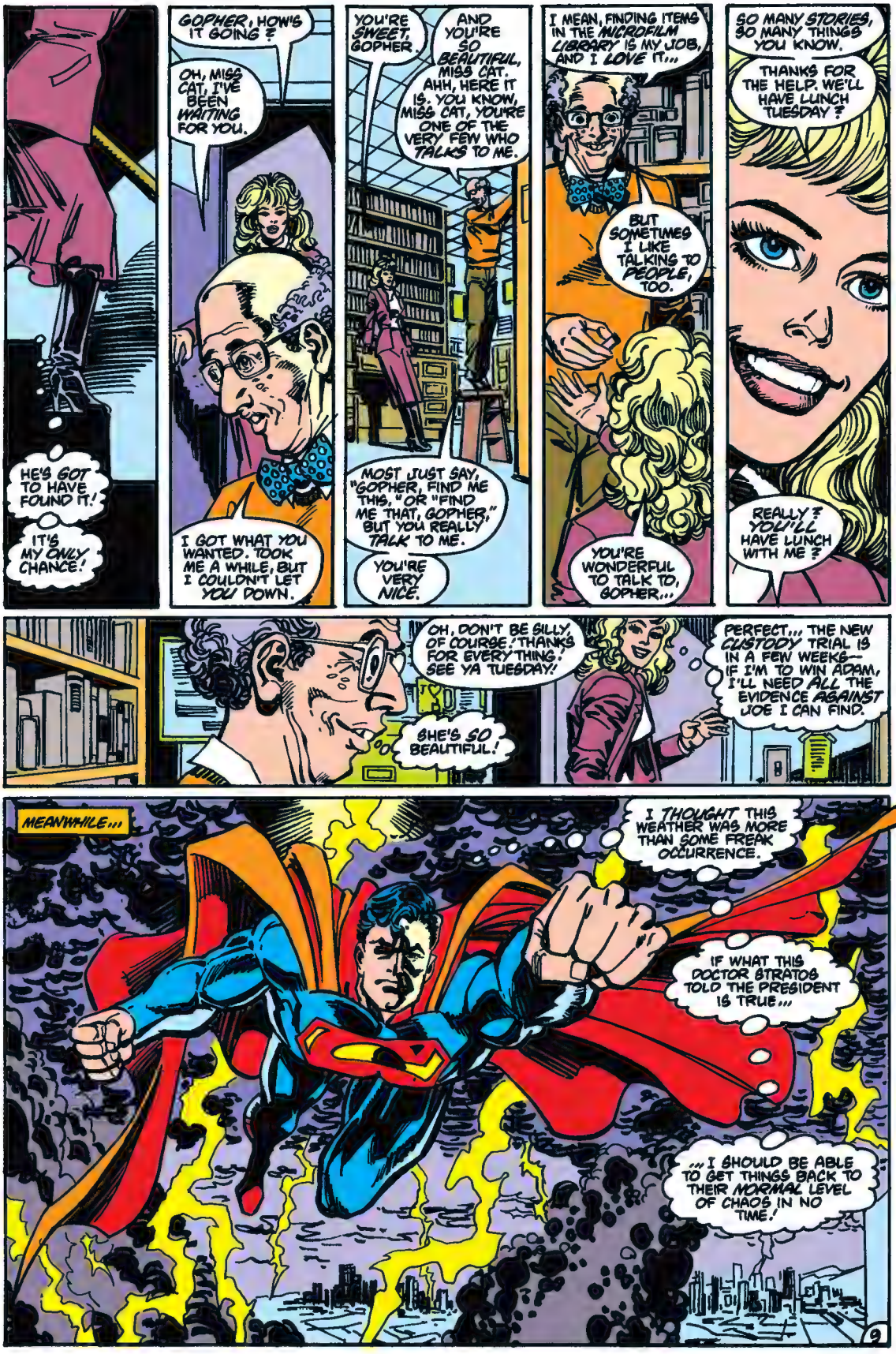
AHHH, GENTLEMEN, WELCOME TO CASTLE CHAOS. I TRUST YOUR FLIGHT TO GREECE WAS UNEVENTFUL.
WE WILL BEGIN BUSINESS AFTER I DEAL WITH MY FORMER AIDE, EMIL MARKOS.
IT MIGHT SERVE YOU ALL WELL TO SEE THE WAY I WORK!
EMIL, YOU DISAPPOINTED ME AGAIN. AND I WARNED YOU I WOULD NOT TOLERATE FAILURE.
BEYOND YOUR REPEATED FAILURES, YOU STOLE FROM ME AND ATTEMPTED TO ENLIST MY STAFF TO REBEL.
D... DOCTOR, I WILL REPENT... I WAS LED ASTRAY...
PLEASE... I AM SORRY. I BEG YOU, DOCTOR STRATOS-- GIVE ME ANOTHER CHANCE.
YOU BEG OF DOCTOR STRATOS? WHY SHOULD A GOD HEED THE PLEA OF A MORTAL?
NO, EMIL, I WILL NOT GRANT YOU MERCY!
DOCTOR STRATOS COMMANDS YOU TO HELL!
AND NOW, MY GOOD FRIENDS, LET US TO BUSINESS.
4

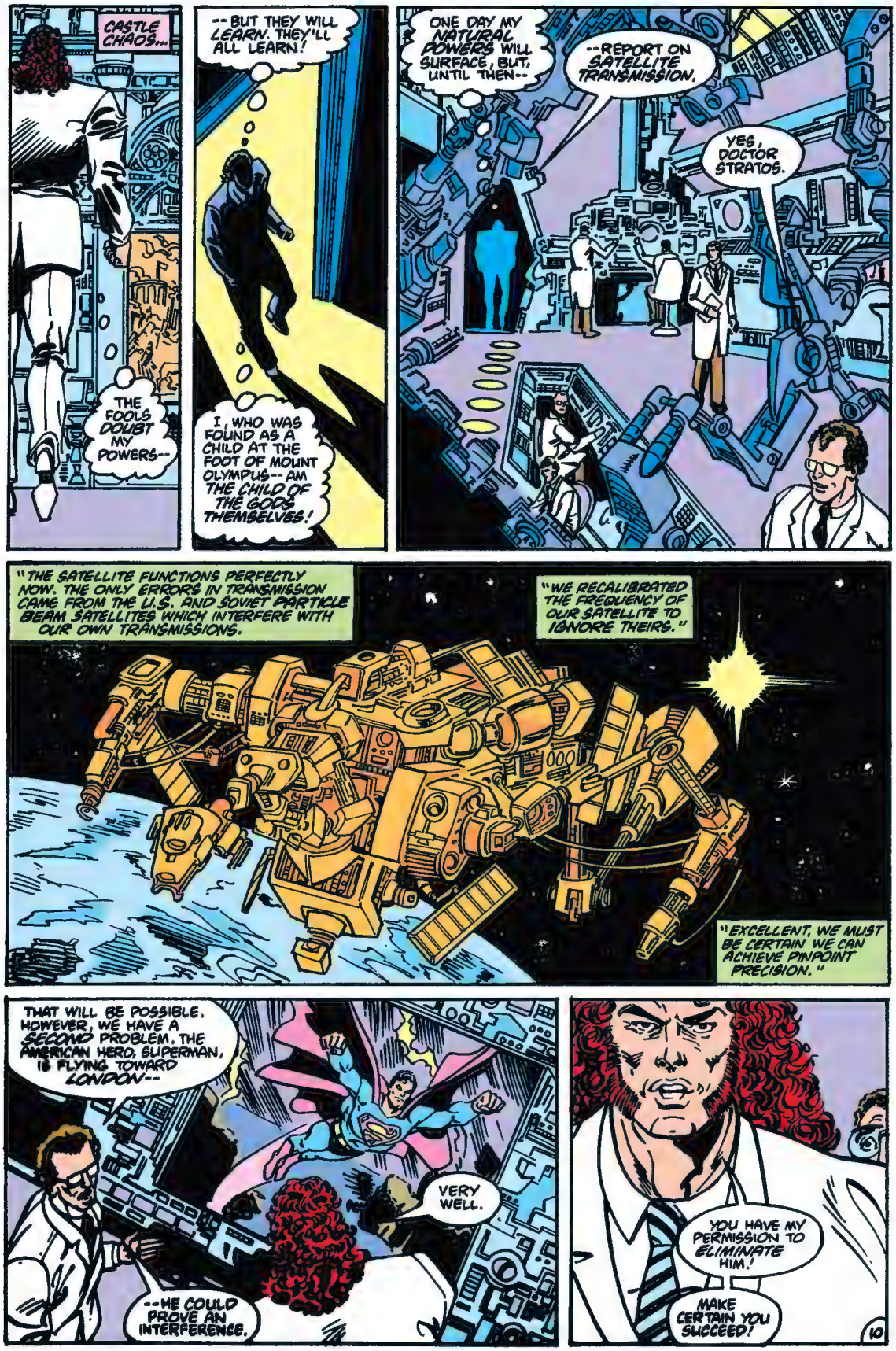

I WAS FOUND-- A WAIF ABANDONED AT THE BASE OF MOUNT OLYMPUS-- MY PARENTS UNKNOWN TO ALL SAVE ME.
FOR I AM A CHILD OF THE GODS--GRANTED COMMAND OVER THE FORCE OF WEATHER ITSELF.
WHEN I ASCEND TO THE HEAVENS THAT POWER WILL BECOME ME. THAT HAS BEEN DECREED, FOR MY DESTINY HAS BEEN ENSCRIBED IN THE STARS!
AND YOU, MY MORTAL FRIENDS, NOW HAVE THE PLEASURS TO SERVE ME.
WELL, WHY DO YOU STAND THERE? DO AS YOU HAVE BEEN COMMANDED!
ALL SAVE YOU, MELINDA. YOU WILL SERVE ME... TONIGHT.
I... YES, CONSTANTINE... OF COURSE, DOCTOR STRATOS. OF COURSE.
DO YOU FEEL IT IN THE WIND, MELINDA? THE GLORY THAT WILL BE MINE?
I REVEL IN MY IMPENDING SUCCESS.
SO DO I, CONSTANTINE... I PRAY FOR YOU...
...TO DIE, YOU MADMAN. YOU'VE HUMILIATED ME FOR THE LAST TIME.
GO AHEAD, CONSTANTINE-- SLEEP.
JUST A MOMENT LONGER.
SKRAKKK
THEN WE'LL ALL SLEEP BETTER KNOWING THAT YOU'RE--
NOOOOOO
CONSTANTINE!!
5

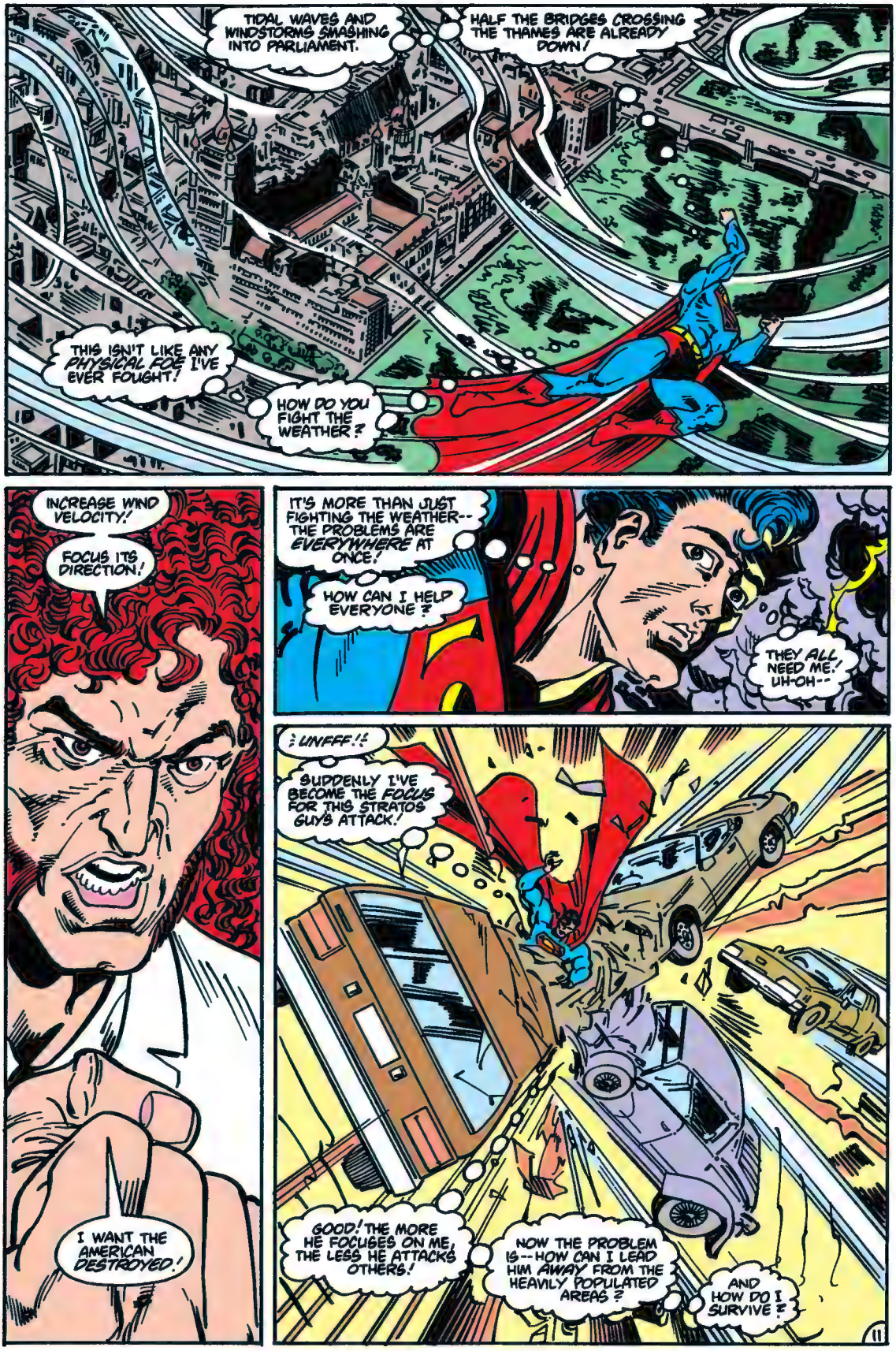

THE DAILY PLANET...
LADIES
OH, HI, LOIS... I DIDN'T HEAR YOU COME IN.
WHAT A WEEK, HUH? I LOVE THE WEATHER--CLARK AND I WENT SKIING. THE BOY'S GETTING GOOD.
HOW'D YOU EVER LET A HUNK LIKE HIM SLIP THROUGH YOUR FINGERS?
HE'S A FIND AND A HALF.
SAY, HOW'S YOUR MOM DOING?
CLARK TOLD ME SHE WAS HAVING SOME HEALTH PROBLEMS.
I AM FINE, CATHERINE! MY MOTHER IS FINE, CATHERINE! MY SISTER IS FINE! MY FATHER IS FINE! MY GOLDFISH ARE FINE!
THAT SHOULD COVER EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE.
LOOK, I KNOW YOU WERE HAVING SOME FAMILY PROBLEMS.
SO AM I, YOU KNOW. I'VE STARTED A CUSTODY FIGHT FOR MY SON--
LOOK, CATHERINE, I'VE GOT A LOT ON MY MIND... REALLY.
LOIS, I DIDN'T MEAN--
CAT-- I'M STUCK ON MY ALREADY TERMINALLY LATE FEATURE ON GANGS IN METROPOLIS-- AND YOU'RE NOT HELPING!
LOIS, WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS? I WAS JUST TRYING TO TALK TO YOU... SEE IF PERHAPS WE COULD BE FRIENDS.
BUT I SEE YOU WON'T BUDGE AN INCH. C'MON, LOOSEN UP, WE DO HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER, LOIS.
WRONG! WE WORK FOR THE SAME NEWSPAPER. WE DON'T HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER.
BEYOND THAT, I'M WRITING NEWS. YOU'RE WRITING GOSSIP AND INNUENDO. USUALLY FROM FIRSTHAND EXPERIENCE, I GATHER!
AND AS FOR BEING FRIENDS--
SLAMM
6


SO ANYWAYS, LIKE I SAYS, "JOEY"--HE'S MY SON--"JOEY, YOU GO TO COLLEGE OR I SLAP YOUR PRETTY FACE."
JOEY, HE'S A GOOD BOY, MR. KENT--A LITTLE STUPID SOMETIMES--BUT GOOD.
I'M SURE HE'LL DO FINE, EDDIE. YOU KNOW HOW KIDS ARE.
HI, LOIS. YOU SEE CAT ANYWHERE?
YOU WANT INFORMATION, KENT--
--DIAL 411!
LOIS, IS SOMETHING WRONG?
NOW WHAT'S BOTHERING HER? IT CAN'T BE SOMETHING I SAID.
EVERY TIME I THINK SHE'S CHANGING HER TUNE, SHE SUDDENLY GOES INTO HER GLACIER ACT AGAIN.
HIYA, BLUE-EYES. HOW ABOUT LUNCH?
THEY JUST OPENED A NEW CAJUN RESTAURANT I WANT TO TRY.
WHAT'S WITH LOIS, CAT? SOMETIMES SHE ACTS LIKE SHE'S A TANK JUST LOOKING FOR A WAR.
UH, CANCEL THAT DOG, WILLYA, EDDIE? THANKS.
WHO CAN COMPREHEND THE FEMALE MIND?
C'MON, I HEAR THE BLACKENED REDFISH IS WORTH DYING FOR.
HEY, WHAT'S THIS, ALL OF A SUDDEN? HAIL?! IN MAY?! FOR THIS I LEFT SUNNY L.A.?
WEATHER PATTERNS ARE CHANGING, BUT THIS IS PATENTLY RIDICULOUS.
SAL, UP IN METEOROLOGY, SAYS CALIFORNIA'S UNDER ELEVEN INCHES OF RAIN, TOO!
BUT THE RAINY SEASON USUALLY ONLY LASTS FROM MARCH FIRST TO THE THIRD!
7
BIZARRE. BUT ROMANTIC..., IN A WEIRD WAY.
THIS WAY, ONE MIGHT GET A FEW MORE NIGHTS CURLED UP BY THE FIREPLACE.
SOMEONE INTERESTED? MMMMMM?


WASHINGTON, D.C....
MR. PRESIDENT, THE HAIL'S GETTING WORSE. PERHAPS IT WOULD BE WISE TO HEAD FOR THE STORMCELLAR.
WELL, GEORGE, I REMEMBER WHEN I WAS YOUNG, PLAYING OUT IN THE SNOW. HOW BAD CAN THIS BE, EH?
MR. PRESIDENT, I MUST INSIST!
WELL, GEORGE, PERHAPS JUST THIS ONCE. THOUGH I WOULDN'T WANT PEOPLE THINKING THEIR PRESIDENT WAS AFRAID OF A LITTLE SNOW.
HUGGY, THAT'S NOT WHAT I'D CALL "LITTLE."
GOSH, NANCE, MAYBE YOU HAVE A POINT THERE.
MR. PRESIDENT, IT'S THE RED PHONE, PREMIER GORBACHEV!
WELL, HOW ARE YOU THIS FINE DAY, MIKHAIL?
OR ARE YOU HAVING MIKHAIL STORMS, TOO? GET IT?
NEVER MIND WITH CHITCHAT, MR. PRESIDENT! MOSCOW IS COMPLETELY UNDERWATER! SIBERIA IS MELTING!
SOON OUR POLITICAL PRISONERS WILL BE COMPLAINING ABOUT THE HEAT!
WHAT HAVE YOUR "STAR WARS" SATELLITES DONE TO OUR WEATHER?
WELL, I ASSURE YOU, MR. PREMIER, THAT--
MR. PRESIDENT, ANOTHER CALL, FROM A DOCTOR STRATOS--HE CLAIMS HE'S CREATED THE WEATHER PROBLEMS!
MR. PREMIER, I'VE GOT ANOTHER CALL COMING THROUGH. LET ME PUT YOU ON HOLD!
MR. PRESIDENT, THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING. I CAN DESTROY NOT ONLY YOUR MUCH-VAUNTED WHITE HOUSE--
--BUT ANY TARGET I CHOOSE!
I WILL MAKE MY DEMANDS WHEN NEXT WE SPEAK.
INFORM YOUR SOVIET FRIENDS THEY WILL SOON DEAL WITH ME!
SLAM
MR. PREMIER, IT APPEARS WE HAVE A MUTUAL PROBLEM... BUT I BELIEVE I KNOW JUST THE PERSON TO HELP US BOTH!
8


HE'S GOT TO HAVE FOUND IT!
IT'S MY ONLY CHANCE!
GOPHER, HOW'S IT GOING?
OH, MISS CAT, I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.
I GOT WHAT YOU WANTED. TOOK ME A WHILE, BUT I COULDN'T LET YOU DOWN.
YOU'RE SWEET, GOPHER.
AND YOU'RE SO BEAUTIFUL, MISS CAT. AHH, HERE IT IS. YOU KNOW, MISS CAT, YOU'RE ONE OF THE VERY FEW WHO TALKS TO ME.
MOST JUST SAY, "GOPHER, FIND ME THIS," OR "FIND ME THAT, GOPHER," BUT YOU REALLY TALK TO ME.
YOU'RE VERY NICE.
I MEAN, FINDING ITEMS IN THE MICROFILM LIBRARY IS MY JOB, AND I LOVE IT...
BUT SOMETIMES I LIKE TALKING TO PEOPLE, TOO.
YOU'RE WONDERFUL TO TALK TO, GOPHER...
SO MANY STORIES, SO MANY THINGS YOU KNOW.
THANKS FOR THE HELP. WE'LL HAVE LUNCH TUESDAY?
REALLY? YOU'LL HAVE LUNCH WITH ME?
OH, DON'T BE SILLY, OF COURSE! THANKS FOR EVERYTHING! SEE YA TUESDAY!
SHE'S SO BEAUTIFUL!
PERFECT... THE NEW CUSTODY TRIAL IS IN A FEW WEEKS— IF I'M TO WIN ADAM, I'LL NEED ALL THE EVIDENCE AGAINST JOE I CAN FIND.
MEANWHILE...
I THOUGHT THIS WEATHER WAS MORE THAN SOME FREAK OCCURRENCE.
IF WHAT THIS DOCTOR STRATOS TOLD THE PRESIDENT IS TRUE...
...I SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET THINGS BACK TO THEIR NORMAL LEVEL OF CHAOS IN NO TIME!
9


CASTLE CHAOS...
THE FOOLS DOUBT MY POWERS--
-- BUT THEY WILL LEARN. THEY'LL ALL LEARN!
I, WHO WAS FOUND AS A CHILD AT THE FOOT OF MOUNT OLYMPUS-- AM THE CHILD OF THE GODS THEMSELVES!
ONE DAY MY NATURAL POWERS WILL SURFACE, BUT, UNTIL THEN--
--REPORT ON SATELLITE TRANSMISSION.
YES, DOCTOR STRATOS.
"THE SATELLITE FUNCTIONS PERFECTLY NOW. THE ONLY ERRORS IN TRANSMISSION CAME FROM THE U.S. AND SOVIET PARTICLE BEAM SATELLITES WHICH INTERFERE WITH OUR OWN TRANSMISSIONS.
"WE RECALIBRATED THE FREQUENCY OF OUR SATELLITE TO IGNORE THEIRS."
"EXCELLENT. WE MUST BE CERTAIN WE CAN ACHIEVE PINPOINT PRECISION."
THAT WILL BE POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, WE HAVE A SECOND PROBLEM. THE AMERICAN HERO, SUPERMAN, IS FLYING TOWARD LONDON--
--HE COULD PROVE AN INTERFERENCE.
VERY WELL.
YOU HAVE MY PERMISSION TO ELIMINATE HIM.
MAKE CERTAIN YOU SUCCEED!
10


TIDAL WAVES AND WINDSTORMS SMASHING INTO PARLIAMENT.
HALF THE BRIDGES CROSSING THE THAMES ARE ALREADY DOWN!
THIS ISN'T LIKE ANY PHYSICAL FOE I'VE EVER FOUGHT!
HOW DO YOU FIGHT THE WEATHER?
INCREASE WIND VELOCITY!
FOCUS ITS DIRECTION!
I WANT THE AMERICAN DESTROYED!
IT'S MORE THAN JUST FIGHTING THE WEATHER-- THE PROBLEMS ARE EVERYWHERE AT ONCE!
HOW CAN I HELP EVERYONE?
THEY ALL NEED ME! UH-OH--
UNFFF!
SUDDENLY I'VE BECOME THE FOCUS FOR THIS STRATOS GUY'S ATTACK!
GOOD! THE MORE HE FOCUSES ON ME, THE LESS HE ATTACKS OTHERS!
NOW THE PROBLEM IS--HOW CAN I LEAD HIM AWAY FROM THE HEAVILY POPULATED AREAS?
AND HOW DO I SURVIVE?
11

THAT ANSWER'S ACTUALLY THE *EASY* ONE--ONE STEP AT A TIME.

FIRST, GET RID OF THE CARS--

--*THEN*, WORRY ABOUT THE TIDAL WAVE!

EASIER SAID THAN DONE!

YOU CAN'T JUST *PUNCH* DOWN WATER.

THOUGH, IF I COULD *REDIRECT* IT BACK TOWARDS THE THAMES--

SKRASHKKK

LIGHTNING!?!

PROVES ONE THING--THIS IS DEFINITELY AN *ATTACK!*

STRATOS *DOES* COMMAND THE WEATHER.

SO NOW THE QUESTION IS--*HOW DO I STOP HIM?*

OOOMMMPPPHH

FORGOT ABOUT THE WAVE!

STUPID, CLARK--DEFINITELY STUPID!

KEEP YOUR *WITS* ABOUT YOU, EVEN WHEN YOU'RE BEING HALF *FRIED!*

IF I CAN MOVE FAST ENOUGH... DRAW THE WATER IN *BEHIND* ME...

...ROUTE IT *AWAY* FROM PARLIAMENT...

UNNNHHHHHH!

MORE LIGHTNING ...SAPPING MY STRENGTH...OR WHAT'S *LEFT* OF IT! C-CAN'T CONTINUE THIS WAY!

NEED TO GET AWAY... NEED TIME TO *REPLAN.*

JUST A FEW SECONDS... THAT'S ALL THE TIME I'VE GOT!

RELAX A SEC... ALL RIGHT... I'M OKAY NOW!

GOT TO GET TO THE SURFACE, NOW...

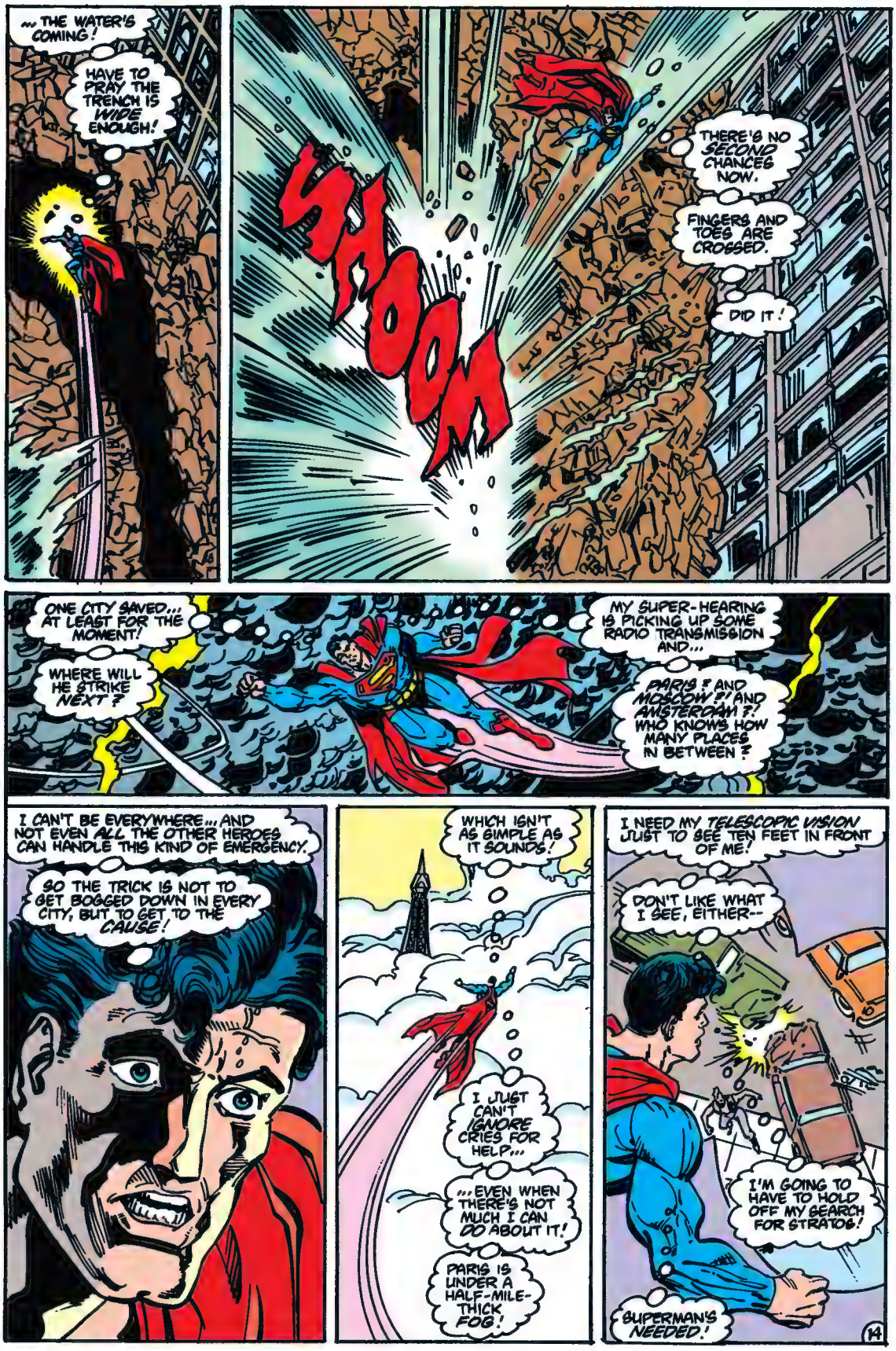
NO SIMPLE WAY TO REDIRECT THE TIDE AT THIS POINT--

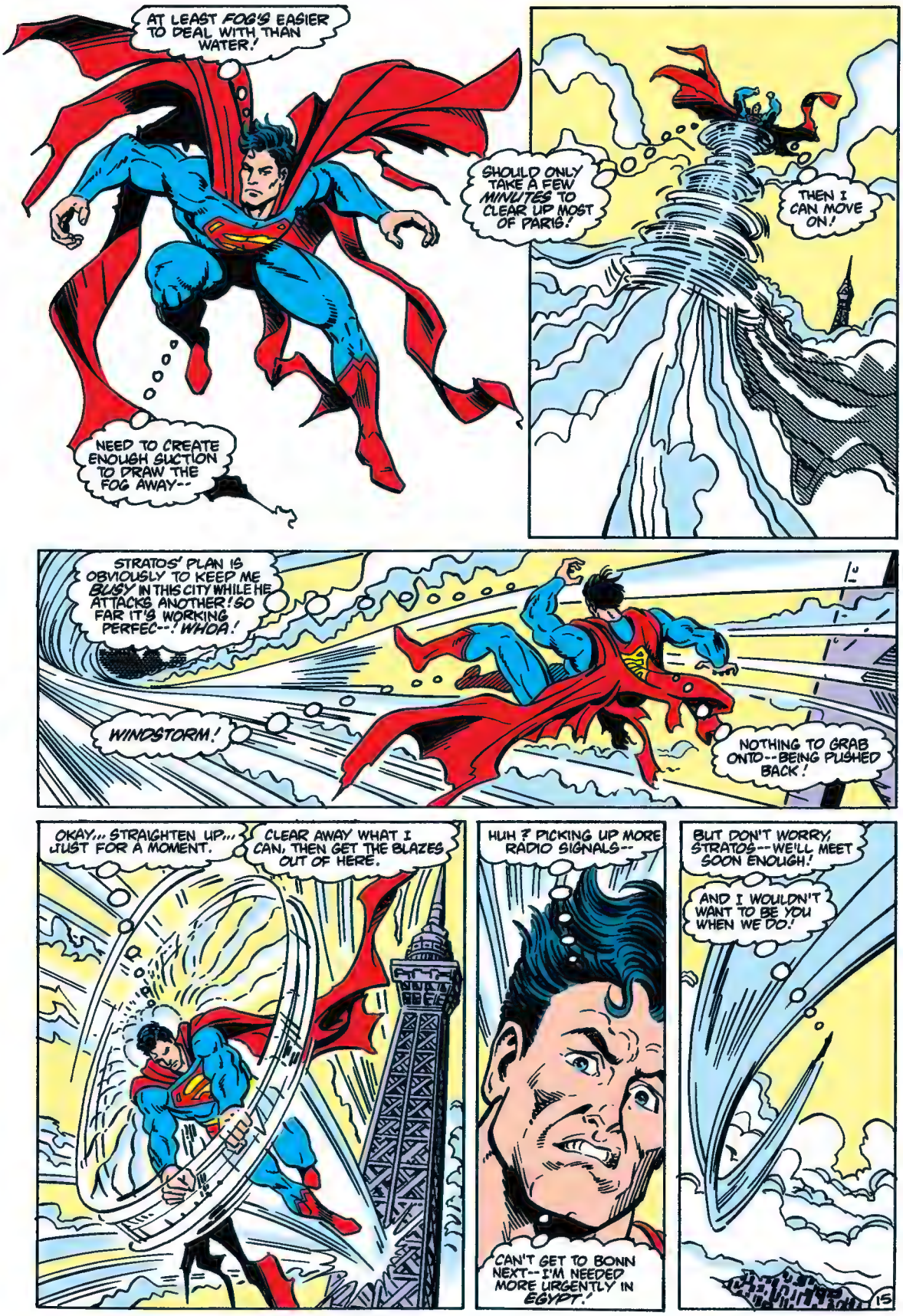
--AND THERE'S NO WAY I CAN PROTECT *ALL* OF PARLIAMENT AT ONCE!

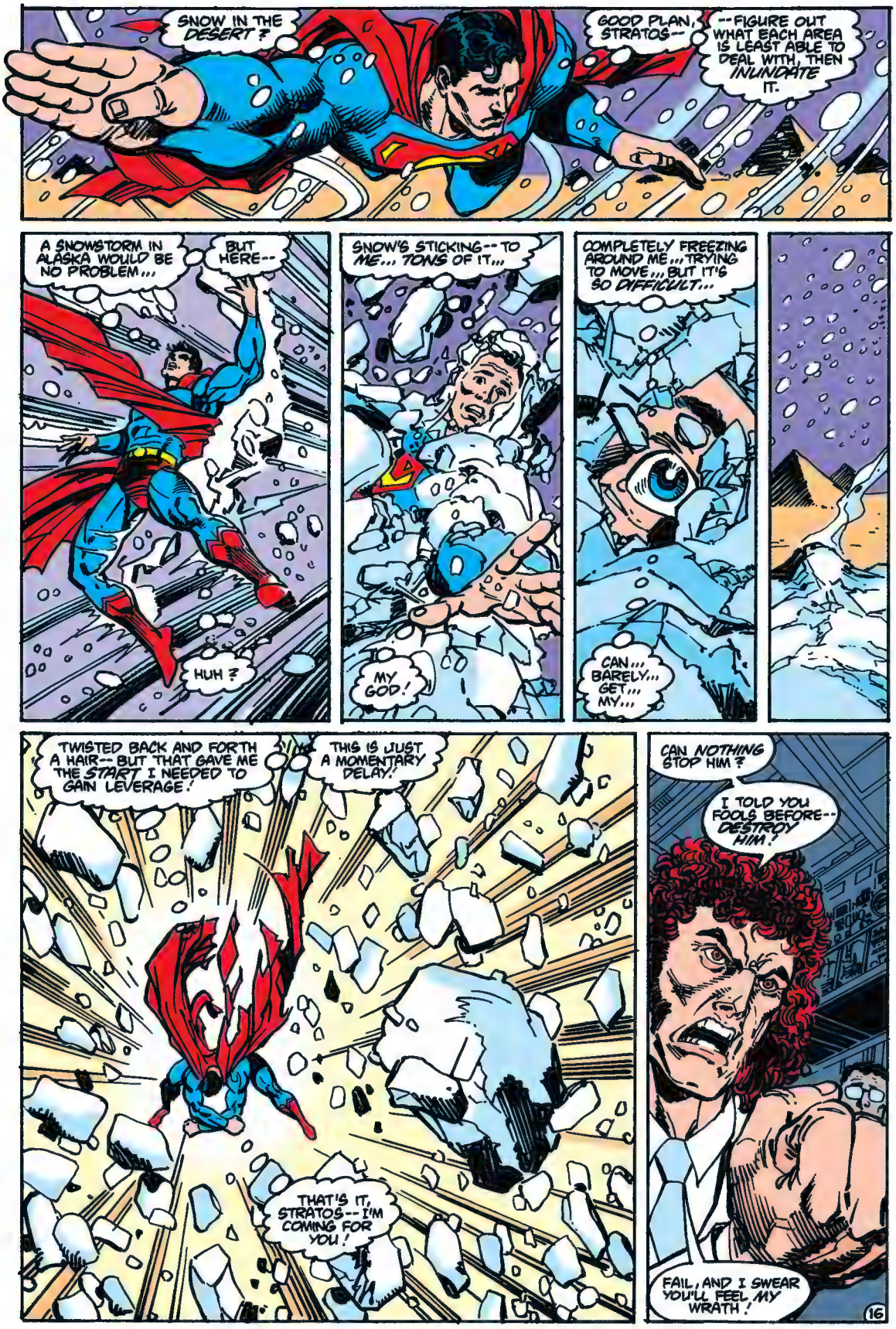
BUT IF I DO THIS CORRECTLY, I WON'T *HAVE* TO.

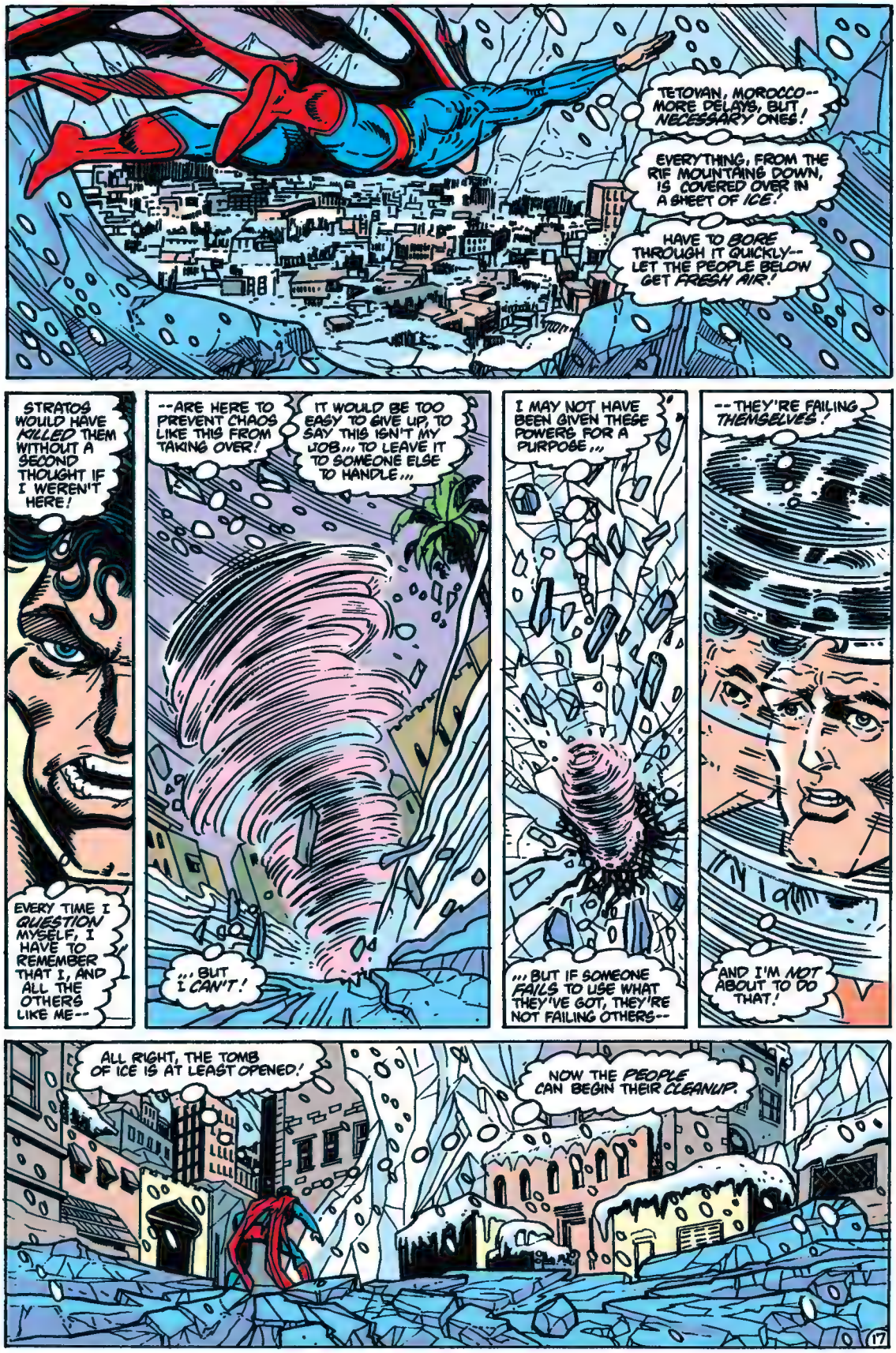
ENGLAND'S USED TO HAVING MOATS AROUND CASTLES--

--I'M SURE THEY WON'T MIND A *TEMPORARY* ONE AROUND THE HOUSES OF LORDS AND COMMONS.

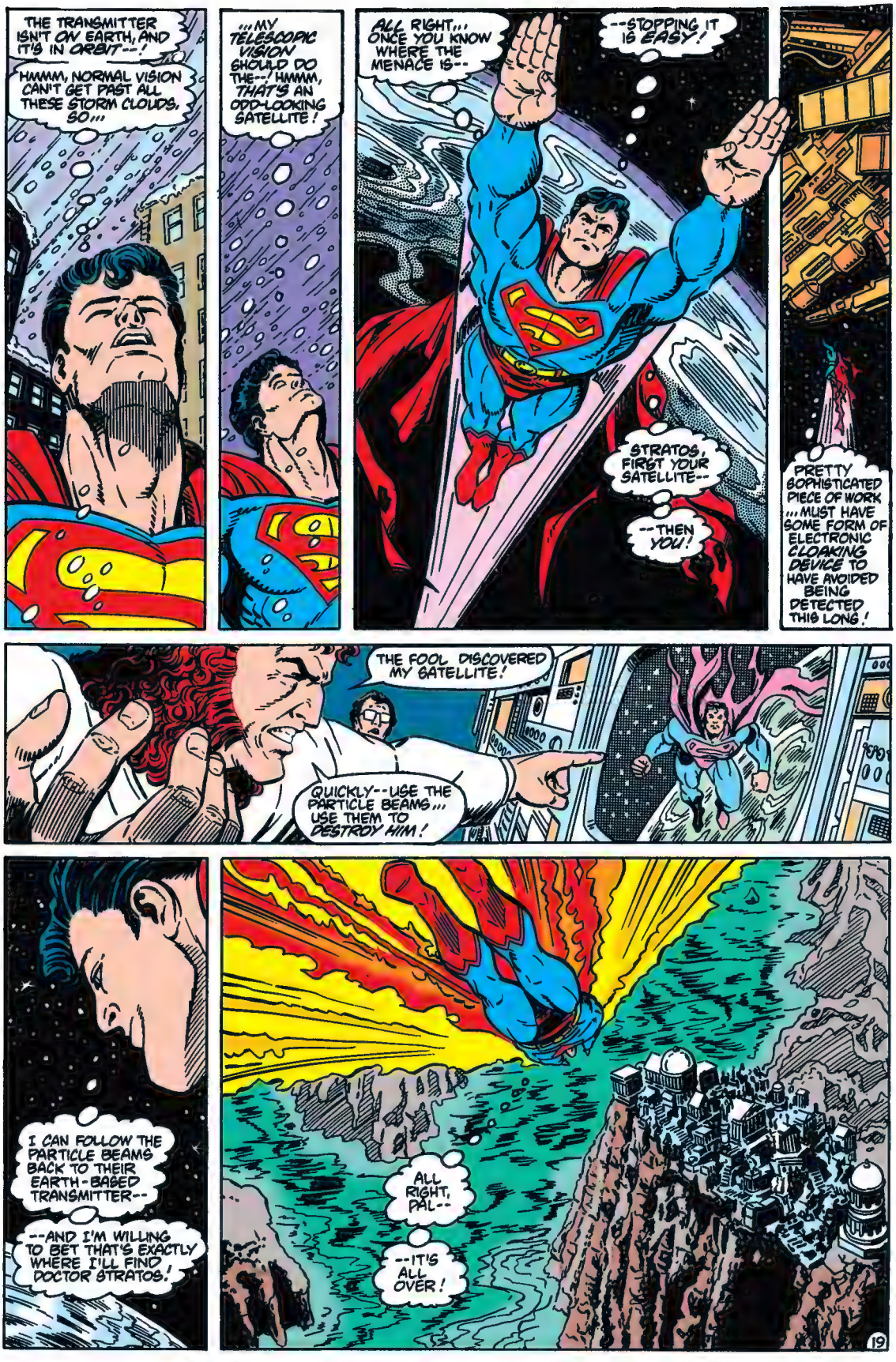

... THE WATER'S COMING!
HAVE TO PRAY THE TRENCH IS WIDE ENOUGH!
SHOOM
THERE'S NO SECOND CHANCES NOW.
FINGERS AND TOES ARE CROSSED.
DID IT!
ONE CITY SAVED... AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT!
WHERE WILL HE STRIKE NEXT?
MY SUPER-HEARING IS PICKING UP SOME RADIO TRANSMISSION AND...
PARIS? AND MOSCOW?! AND AMSTERDAM?! WHO KNOWS HOW MANY PLACES IN BETWEEN?
I CAN'T BE EVERYWHERE... AND NOT EVEN ALL THE OTHER HEROES CAN HANDLE THIS KIND OF EMERGENCY.
SO THE TRICK IS NOT TO GET BOGGED DOWN IN EVERY CITY, BUT TO GET TO THE CAUSE!
WHICH ISN'T AS SIMPLE AS IT SOUNDS!
I JUST CAN'T IGNORE CRIES FOR HELP...
...EVEN WHEN THERE'S NOT MUCH I CAN DO ABOUT IT!
PARIS IS UNDER A HALF-MILE-THICK FOG!
I NEED MY TELESCOPIC VISION JUST TO SEE TEN FEET IN FRONT OF ME!
DON'T LIKE WHAT I SEE, EITHER--
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO HOLD OFF MY SEARCH FOR STRATOS!
SUPERMAN'S NEEDED!
14

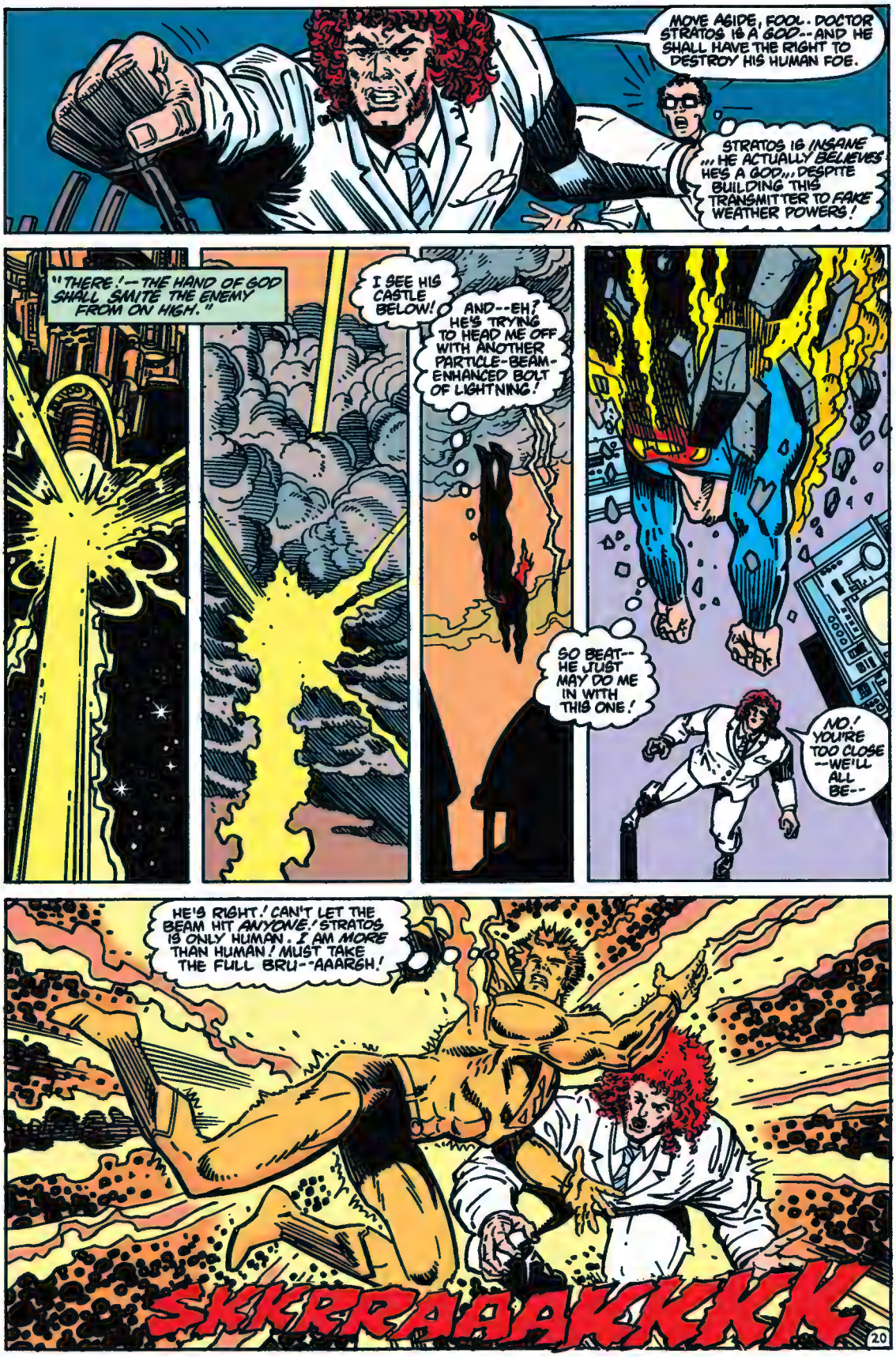

AT LEAST FOG'S EASIER TO DEAL WITH THAN WATER!
NEED TO CREATE ENOUGH SUCTION TO DRAW THE FOG AWAY--
SHOULD ONLY TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO CLEAR UP MOST OF PARIS!
THEN I CAN MOVE ON!
STRATOS' PLAN IS OBVIOUSLY TO KEEP ME BUSY IN THIS CITY WHILE HE ATTACKS ANOTHER! SO FAR IT'S WORKING PERFEC--! WHOA!
WINDSTORM!
NOTHING TO GRAB ONTO--BEING PUSHED BACK!
OKAY... STRAIGHTEN UP... JUST FOR A MOMENT.
CLEAR AWAY WHAT I CAN, THEN GET THE BLAZES OUT OF HERE.
HUH? PICKING UP MORE RADIO SIGNALS--
CAN'T GET TO BONN NEXT--I'M NEEDED MORE URGENTLY IN EGYPT!
BUT DON'T WORRY, STRATOS--WE'LL MEET SOON ENOUGH!
AND I WOULDN'T WANT TO BE YOU WHEN WE DO!
15

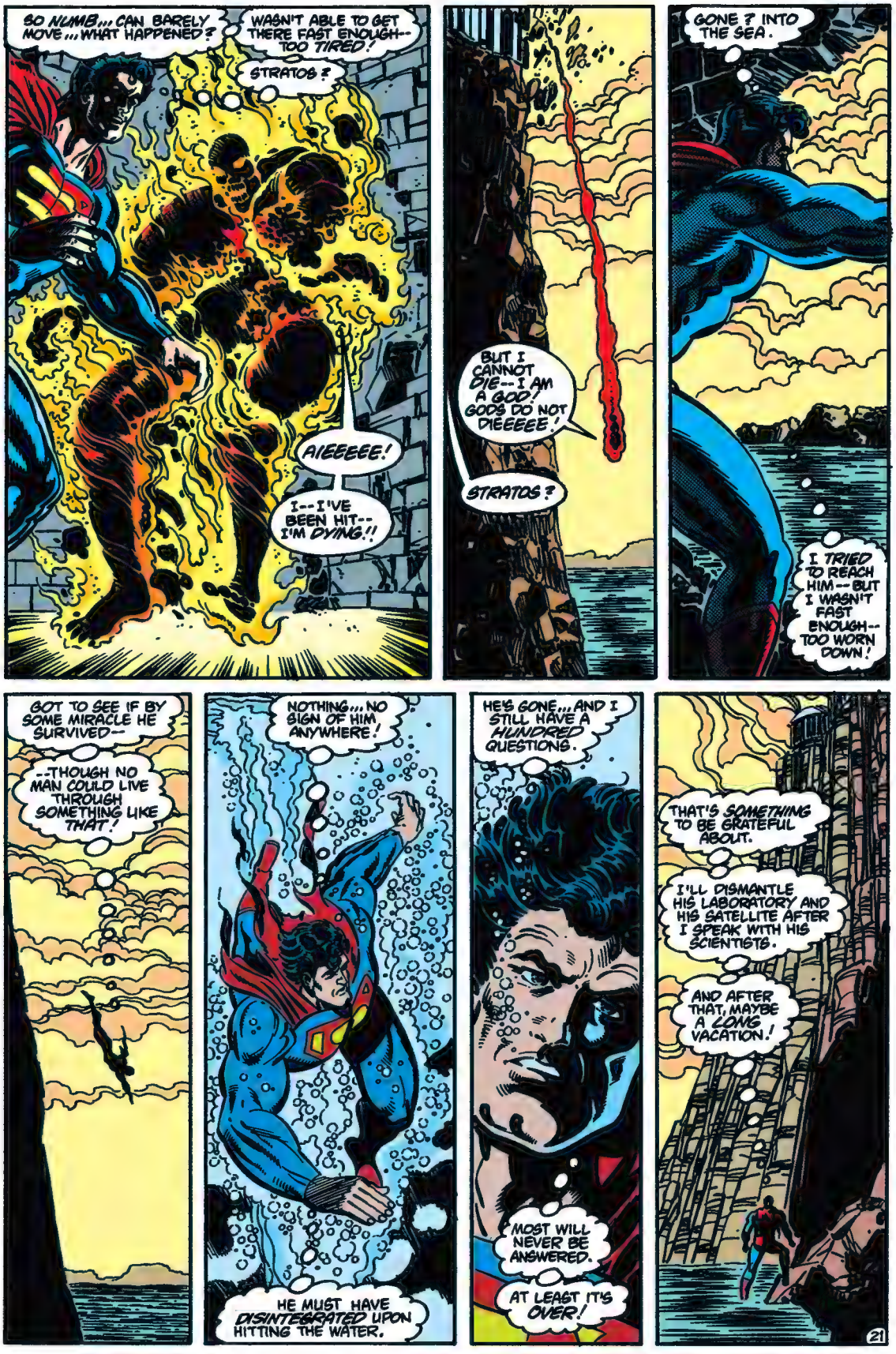

SNOW IN THE DESERT?
GOOD PLAN, STRATOS--
--FIGURE OUT WHAT EACH AREA IS LEAST ABLE TO DEAL WITH, THEN INUNDATE IT.
A SNOWSTORM IN ALASKA WOULD BE NO PROBLEM...
BUT HERE--
HUH?
SNOW'S STICKING-- TO ME... TONS OF IT...
MY GOD!
COMPLETELY FREEZING AROUND ME... TRYING TO MOVE... BUT IT'S SO DIFFICULT...
CAN... BARELY... GET... MY...
TWISTED BACK AND FORTH A HAIR-- BUT THAT GAVE ME THE START I NEEDED TO GAIN LEVERAGE!
THIS IS JUST A MOMENTARY DELAY!
THAT'S IT, STRATOS-- I'M COMING FOR YOU!
CAN NOTHING STOP HIM?
I TOLD YOU FOOLS BEFORE-- DESTROY HIM!
FAIL, AND I SWEAR YOU'LL FEEL MY WRATH!
16

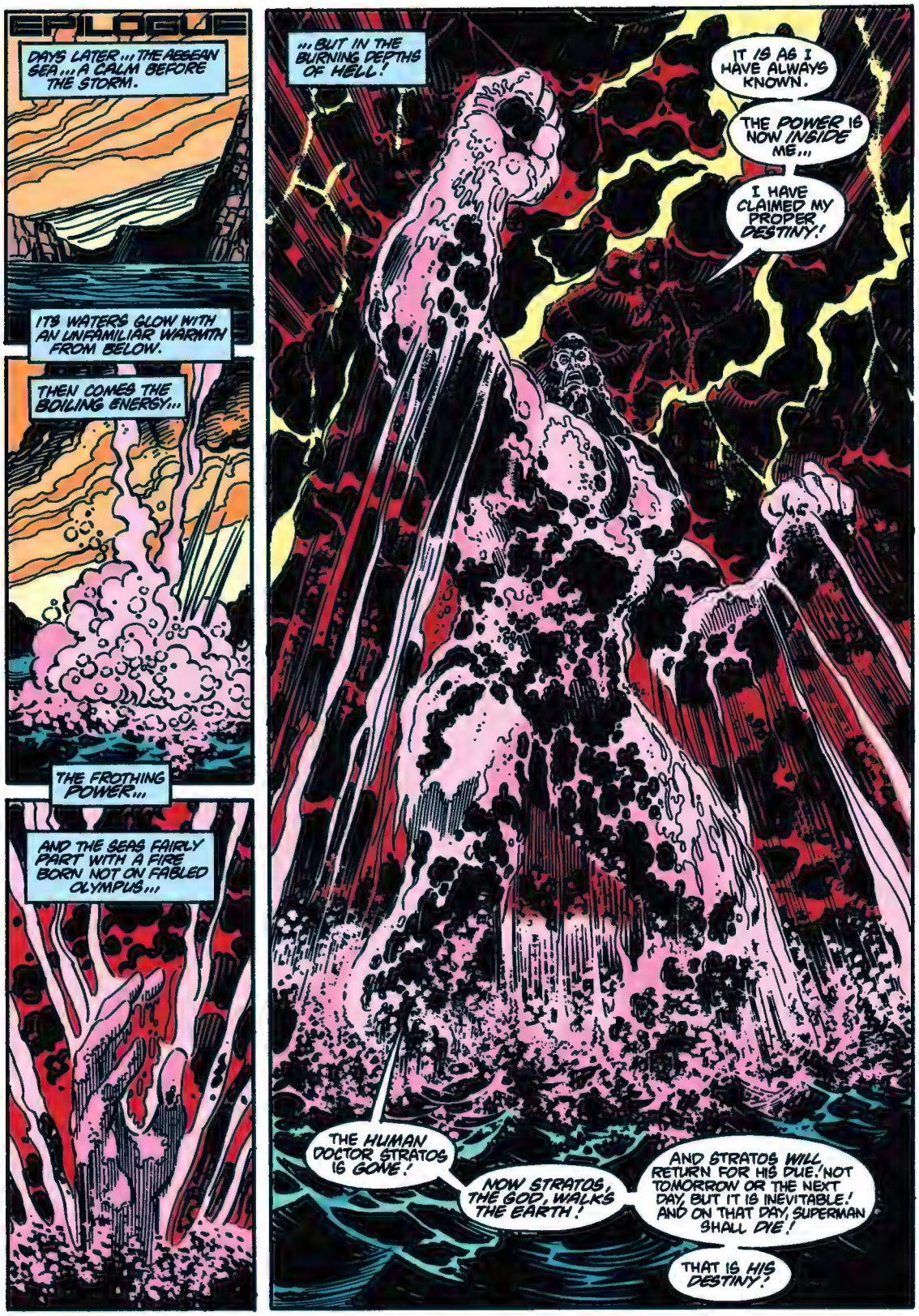

TETOVAN, MOROCCO--MORE DELAYS, BUT NECESSARY ONES!
EVERYTHING, FROM THE RIF MOUNTAINS DOWN, IS COVERED OVER IN A SHEET OF ICE!
HAVE TO BORE THROUGH IT QUICKLY--LET THE PEOPLE BELOW GET FRESH AIR!
STRATOS WOULD HAVE KILLED THEM WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT IF I WEREN'T HERE!
EVERY TIME I QUESTION MYSELF, I HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT I, AND ALL THE OTHERS LIKE ME--
--ARE HERE TO PREVENT CHAOS LIKE THIS FROM TAKING OVER!
IT WOULD BE TOO EASY TO GIVE UP, TO SAY THIS ISN'T MY JOB... TO LEAVE IT TO SOMEONE ELSE TO HANDLE...
...BUT I CAN'T!
I MAY NOT HAVE BEEN GIVEN THESE POWERS FOR A PURPOSE...
...BUT IF SOMEONE FAILS TO USE WHAT THEY'VE GOT, THEY'RE NOT FAILING OTHERS--
--THEY'RE FAILING THEMSELVES!
AND I'M NOT ABOUT TO DO THAT!
ALL RIGHT, THE TOMB OF ICE IS AT LEAST OPENED!
NOW THE PEOPLE CAN BEGIN THEIR CLEANUP.
17

I'VE GOT TO FIND STRATOS SOON... I CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS! HE'S EXHAUSTING ME!
AND I SUPPOSE THAT'S THE PLAN!
BUT HOW IS HE DOING ALL OF THIS?
STRATOS' BACKGROUND IN COMPUTER SCIENCES MIGHT SUGGEST THAT HE'S COME UP WITH SOME KIND OF MACHINE OR TRANSMITTER THAT CAN DISRUPT WEATHER CONDITIONS.
BUT THAT STILL DOESN'T EXPLAIN HOW HE CAN AFFECT SO MANY DIFFERENT PLACES ON EARTH THAT ARE SO FAR APART--!
UNLESS...
18


THE TRANSMITTER ISN'T ON EARTH, AND IT'S IN ORBIT--!
HMMM, NORMAL VISION CAN'T GET PAST ALL THESE STORM CLOUDS, SO...
...MY TELESCOPIC VISION SHOULD DO THE--! HMMM, THAT'S AN ODD-LOOKING SATELLITE!
ALL RIGHT... ONCE YOU KNOW WHERE THE MENACE IS--
--STOPPING IT IS EASY!
STRATOS, FIRST YOUR SATELLITE--
--THEN YOU!
PRETTY SOPHISTICATED PIECE OF WORK ...MUST HAVE SOME FORM OF ELECTRONIC CLOAKING DEVICE TO HAVE AVOIDED BEING DETECTED THIS LONG!
THE FOOL DISCOVERED MY SATELLITE!
QUICKLY--USE THE PARTICLE BEAMS... USE THEM TO DESTROY HIM!
I CAN FOLLOW THE PARTICLE BEAMS BACK TO THEIR EARTH-BASED TRANSMITTER--
--AND I'M WILLING TO BET THAT'S EXACTLY WHERE I'LL FIND DOCTOR STRATOS!
ALL RIGHT, PAL--
--IT'S ALL OVER!
19


MOVE ASIDE, FOOL. DOCTOR STRATOS IS A GOD--AND HE SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO DESTROY HIS HUMAN FOE.
STRATOS IS INSANE ... HE ACTUALLY BELIEVES HE'S A GOD ... DESPITE BUILDING THIS TRANSMITTER TO FAKE WEATHER POWERS!
"THERE!--THE HAND OF GOD SHALL SMITE THE ENEMY FROM ON HIGH."
I SEE HIS CASTLE BELOW!
AND--EH? HE'S TRYING TO HEAD ME OFF WITH ANOTHER PARTICLE-BEAM-ENHANCED BOLT OF LIGHTNING!
SO BEAT--HE JUST MAY DO ME IN WITH THIS ONE!
NO! YOU'RE TOO CLOSE --WE'LL ALL BE--
HE'S RIGHT! CAN'T LET THE BEAM HIT ANYONE! STRATOS IS ONLY HUMAN. I AM MORE THAN HUMAN! MUST TAKE THE FULL BRU--AAARGH!
SKKRRAAAKKKK
20


SO NUMB... CAN BARELY MOVE... WHAT HAPPENED?
WASN'T ABLE TO GET THERE FAST ENOUGH-- TOO TIRED!
STRATOS?
AIEEEEE!
I--I'VE BEEN HIT-- I'M DYING!!
BUT I CANNOT DIE-- I AM A GOD! GODS DO NOT DIEEEEE!
STRATOS?
GONE? INTO THE SEA.
I TRIED TO REACH HIM-- BUT I WASN'T FAST ENOUGH-- TOO WORN DOWN!
GOT TO SEE IF BY SOME MIRACLE HE SURVIVED--
--THOUGH NO MAN COULD LIVE THROUGH SOMETHING LIKE THAT!
NOTHING... NO SIGN OF HIM ANYWHERE!
HE MUST HAVE DISINTEGRATED UPON HITTING THE WATER.
HE'S GONE... AND I STILL HAVE A HUNDRED QUESTIONS.
MOST WILL NEVER BE ANSWERED.
AT LEAST IT'S OVER!
THAT'S SOMETHING TO BE GRATEFUL ABOUT.
I'LL DISMANTLE HIS LABORATORY AND HIS SATELLITE AFTER I SPEAK WITH HIS SCIENTISTS.
AND AFTER THAT, MAYBE A LONG VACATION!
21


EPILOGUE
DAYS LATER... THE AEGEAN SEA... A CALM BEFORE THE STORM.
ITS WATERS GLOW WITH AN UNFAMILIAR WARMTH FROM BELOW.
THEN COMES THE BOILING ENERGY...
THE FROTHING POWER...
AND THE SEAS FAIRLY PART WITH A FIRE BORN NOT ON FABLED OLYMPUS...
...BUT IN THE BURNING DEPTHS OF HELL!
IT IS AS I HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN.
THE POWER IS NOW INSIDE ME...
I HAVE CLAIMED MY PROPER DESTINY!
THE HUMAN DOCTOR STRATOS IS GONE!
NOW STRATOS, THE GOD, WALKS THE EARTH!
AND STRATOS WILL RETURN FOR HIS DUE. NOT TOMORROW OR THE NEXT DAY, BUT IT IS INEVITABLE! AND ON THAT DAY, SUPERMAN SHALL DIE!
THAT IS HIS DESTINY!

DC
SUPERMAN
7
JULY 87
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VERSUS THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES!
8
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BY BYRNE AND KESEL

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430
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CHEMO™ IS BACK!
W-WITH SUPERMAN'S P-POWER!
FORGET IT, GANG--EVEN COMBINED WE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO STOP HIM!

DC
591
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ACTION COMICS®
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BY JOHN BYRNE
SMALLVILLE ISN'T BIG ENOUGH FOR THE BOTH OF US, SUPERMAN!
ALSO FEATURING:
THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES™ &
KRYPTO™ the SUPERDOG

PAUL LEVITZ, GREG LAROCQUE & MIKE DECARLO
LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES
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WELCOME TO
SM LLE
SMA LLE U.S.A. POP
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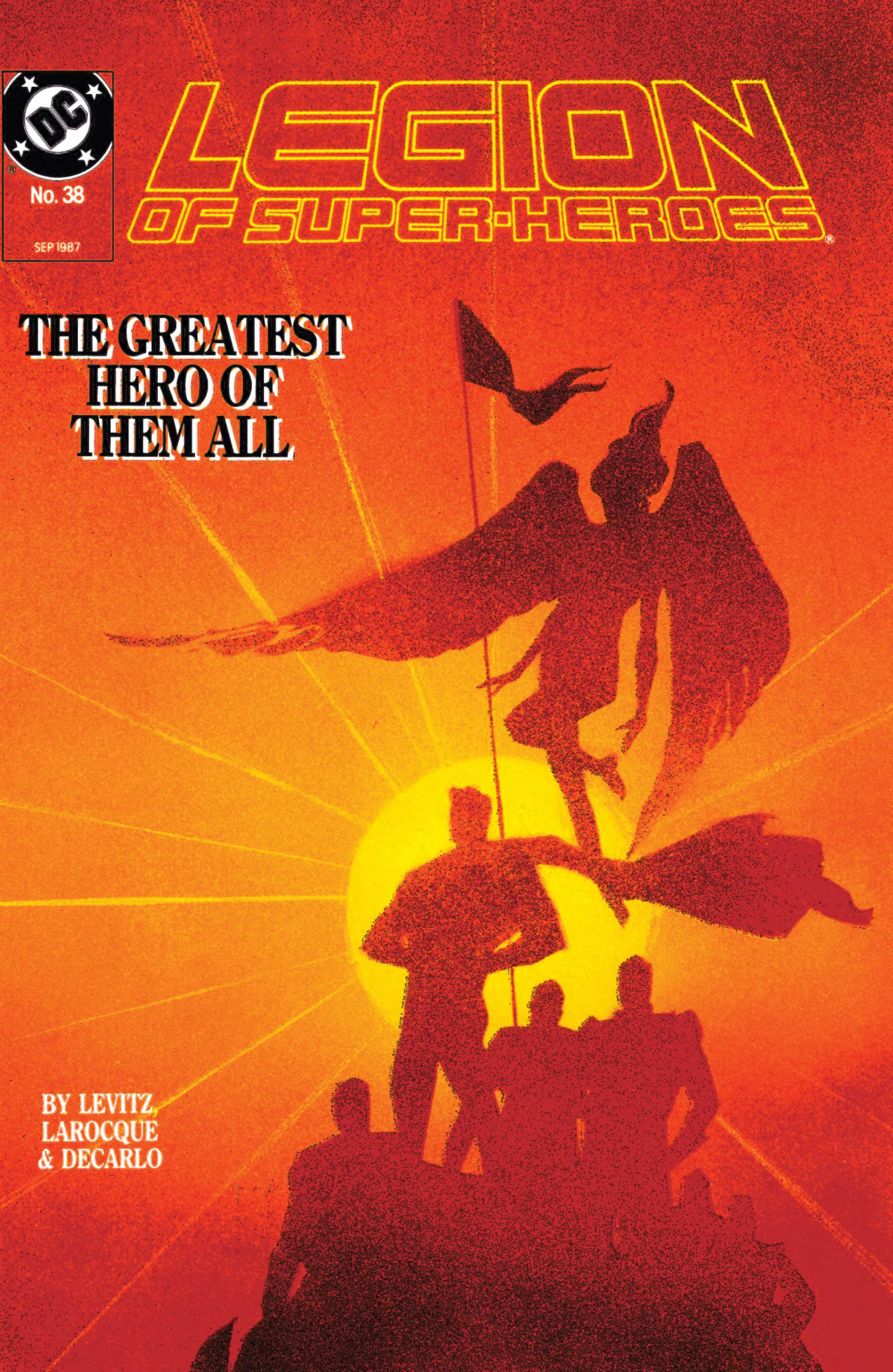
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LEGION
OF SUPER-HEROES
THE GREATEST HERO OF THEM ALL
BY LEVITZ, LAROCQUE & DECARLO

5 YEARS EXPERIENCE

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